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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel's Beilin Hopes Hebron Attack Speeds Talks

LD0303152594 Bern Swiss Radio International in English 1500 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin has been holding talks in Switzerland on the Middle East peace process and bilateral issues. Mr. Beilin said he hoped the massacre in Hebron would accelerate negotiations on implementing limited Palestinian self-rule. The state secretary in the Swiss Foreign Ministry told a news conference in Bern that the success of the peace process was important to Switzerland.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraq Notifies League of West's 'Provocative Acts'

NC0303215894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1832 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today met Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, and reviewed with him the latest developments in the Arab region.

Following the meeting, Dr. Najm said that he briefed the secretary general on the adverse effect the aerial blockade on southern Iraq is having on the unity and integrity of Iraqi territories.

Iraq notified the Arab League of air violations in the south and north of Iraq and the provocative acts performed by the Western planes, including distributing leaflets and burning agricultural crops, Dr. Najm said.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 22 Feb 94

NC0303092094

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 22 February issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Regime Said To Collapse
2. Government at Odds With Correspondents
3. Corruption, Anti-Islamic Policy Viewed
4. Normalization With Israel Slammed
5. Satellite Dish Invasion
6. Preachers Banned From Television
7. West's Anti-Islamic Views Refuted

REGIME SAID TO COLLAPSE

In its 22 February edition, Cairo AL-SHA'B, the mouthpiece of the opposition Labor Party, publishes an unattributed 400-word report on page 1 citing Britain's THE SUNDAY TIMES' 20 February issue saying that the regime in Egypt is threatened with collapse at the hands of Islamists. The report says that "a confidential U.S. intelligence report being drafted in light of reports by the central, foreign, and military intelligence services warns against the dangers facing the regime in Egypt and its possible collapse in the face of onslaughts by the Islamic groups and the consequences this could have for the entire Middle East." THE SUNDAY TIMES' report notes: The "Islamic fundamentalists will continue to make gains throughout the country, which will practically lead to the collapse of the Egyptian Government, which is a geopolitical mainstay for U.S. policy in the Arab world." The report refers to "the Americans' frustration at the security campaigns, torture of suspects, military trials, executions, and the government's refusal to deal with any of the social problems that give the fundamentalists a political advantage." The report claims that while the U.S. State Department and U.S. intelligence are urging the Egyptian regime to introduce political and economic reforms, the regime has refused to change its "hardline attitude."

GOVERNMENT AT ODDS WITH CORRESPONDENTS

An approximately 400-word unattributed report on pages 1 and 7 notes that "dissatisfaction" prevails among foreign correspondents in Egypt over the "increasing harassment" to which they have recently been subjected by the Egyptian authorities for reporting on the situation in Egypt. The government is not happy about it. The report notes that the AFP bureau chief in Cairo was summoned to the Interior Ministry and was "kept waiting" for hours before being "strongly reprimanded" by Major General Ra'uf al-Manawi, public relations director at the Interior Ministry, for filing a report on an explosion in Tanta.

CORRUPTION, ANTI-ISLAMIC POLICY VIEWED

Two reports on page 4 feature antigovernment remarks by Labor Party leaders. One, an approximately 2,000-word report by Salah al-Nahif, reviews a speech by party leader Ibrahim Shukri at a rally in al-Gharbiyah Governorate. Shukri spoke about various political issues, noting the party's campaign against "corruption," and in defense of the people's aspirations for freedom and political and economic reforms. Shukri said: "Under Islam, it is the people's right, rather, their duty, to advise and correct the ruler." He added: "I told King Faruq: 'All those around you are gangsters and thieves.' Today, I tell Mubarak: 'Many of those around you have become corrupt gangs that threaten the very existence of the nation. You must rid the country of them.'" Noting that the country is passing through a crisis, Shukri added: "It is a tough and extremely violent crisis that Egypt is enduring. We still insist that political reform is the key to any reform. Political reforms begin by amending the law on practicing political rights to provide guarantees for fair elections that reflect the will of the people."

The Labor Party secretary in al-Gharbiyah, Salah al-Qafas, also addressed the rally. He reviewed the challenges facing the nation and added: "We know that the colonialist forces are not looking for friends, but agents. Whoever says he is a friend of the United States or others is an agent. There is no such thing as a new world order, but rather a domination of the world by the United States, which lives by violating the freedoms of peoples and plundering their wealth, using Israel as its stick."

Labor Party Executive Committee member Muhammad Badr referred to a "criminal plot to strike at Islam." He said that events in Egypt are an attempt to undermine Islam and "weed out the Islamic awakening." He added: "Anybody who follows the Egyptian media will notice that they act as a spearhead against an Islamic inclination by removing moral and religious censorship of programs."

On the same page, the paper publishes an approximately 1,500-word unattributed report on two speeches given by Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn at a village in al-Daqahliyah Governorate. Husayn reviewed the "Western and Zionist plots to control our region through the so-called Middle East market" and called for the "need for the country to be governed by heavenly law." He added: "This nation will continue to memorize God's book. It will uphold it as a shari'ah to be implemented to provide progress and establish justice among the people." He noted that Prophet Muhammad and his companions "struggled, persevered, and fought when fighting was necessary" to accomplish their mission, because God "does not give victory to a people who give up easily or who believe that God will give them victory without a struggle against themselves, the devil, and the enemies of religion." Concluding, Husayn is quoted as pointing out that the Labor Party program seeks to "set up a homeland for Islam that could ensure dignity and prosperity, provide jobs for the jobless, and food and medicine for the needy." The paper cites him adding that his party seeks to "restore shari'ah as the law of the land" and have "rulers who are opposed to Zionism and the enemies of religion; rulers who seek reforms, not cover up the corrupt."

NORMALIZATION WITH ISRAEL SLAMMED

Labor Party deputy leader Muhammad Hilmi Murad writes an approximately 2,000-word article on page 5 demanding a "popular trial" of Deputy Prime Minister Yusuf Wali for his remarks in the People's Assembly in which he "glorified Israel, praised its scientific and technological advances in agriculture, and defended it for its role in cooperating with Egypt in this regard." He says Israel's technological and research advantage in this regard is nothing but the "fruit of the efforts of the scientific centers in the United States and Europe that cooperate with Israel." He states that Wali's outspoken remarks on normalization with Israel represent a "new era in his role in establishing the Middle East market" after years of "diffident" calls for courting Israel. Concluding, Murad declares: "National duty dictates that we follow what organized and conscientious people in some advanced states do and hold a popular trial of officials by a selected panel made up of specialists and former members of the judiciary."

Muslim Brotherhood writer Ahmad al-Malat echoes Murad's sentiments in an approximately 1,500-word article on the same page. He lashes out at AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' for his calls for better relations with Israel. Admonishing Nafi' for saying that there is no permanent enemy or friend, al-Malt suggests: "You have forgotten or ignored that the Jews' enmity toward Islam is the strongest." Commenting on remarks by Nafi' that several Arab businessmen are flocking to Israel to conclude business deals with it despite the boycott, al-Malat writes: "What is this shame? Isn't it enough that you have surrendered the future of your countries to Uncle Sam through the agreements you have concluded with him according to which you trust him with your necks and in return he guarantees you safety from any aggressor?" He adds: "Manhood, chivalry, and jihad have become meaningless words in your dictionary. To you they mean nothing but extremism and terrorism."

Al-Malat states that Nafi' was "shameless" enough to call for giving priority to joint ventures with Israel. He asks: "Who gave you the right, honorable writer, to chart Egypt's policy as you please and do so contrary to the desire of its noble Muslim people, who refuse to sell their gas to their enemies and who continue to break the bones of our children and slaughter our youth in the holy land?" He adds: "O enthusiastic writer, I tell you and the rulers who follow you that this is not your cause, but the cause of Islam." He adds: "If you are short of nerve in defending the usurped right, declare it for history's sake and admit publicly that you are not up to jihad, yet don't close the door on the abluted hands that seek, through legitimate jihad, to regain as much as possible of the land and dignity that you have wasted. Call these mujahidin by the real names that God almighty has given them. Don't say that they are advocates of violence and terrorism, for violence and terrorism are the qualities of those who have usurped the land from its real owners." He adds: "Do not sing the praises of the glory expected from this satanic openness, which you covertly worked to achieve not too long ago and on which you are working publicly and insolently today. You imagine that after muffling the sincere mouths, breaking the honest pens, and keeping only the hypocrites, you have every right to speak in the name of the vanquished peoples who cannot afford to tell the truth in their own country."

SATELLITE DISH INVASION

Muhammad Abu-al-Futuh, in an approximately 1,000-word article on page 9, comments on an article by writer Sa'd-al-Din Wahbah in AL-AHRAM on 22 January rejecting calls for prohibiting satellite dishes. Abu-al-Futuh argues that dishes bring more "poison, immorality, and decadence" than benefits, which makes them a "ferocious threat that must be resisted." He points out that the Egyptian people's traditions have withstood numerous military invasions and occupations, but that the "cultural invasion and occupation is a malignant enemy" that brainwashes people and is, therefore, more serious. He adds: "The obscene and homosexual programs that the dish will bring us are more dangerous than cancer and AIDS. It is the intellectual and cultural AIDS."

PREACHERS BANNED FROM TELEVISION

Muslim Brotherhood writer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, in an approximately 600-word article on page 12, criticizes Egyptian television for its superficial programming and for banning some Islamic preachers from appearing on television.

WEST'S ANTI-ISLAMIC VIEWS REFUTED

In a 400-word column on page 12, Islamic Preacher Muhammad al-Ghazali slams the West's accusations against Islam.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 22 Feb 94

NC0203200394

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 22 February issue of Cairo 'AQIDATI summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Awqaf Minister's Efforts Defended
2. Imams Urged to Take Propagation Initiative
3. Western Media Criticized
4. Koran Meanings Translated into Albanian, Bosnian
5. NATO Ultimatum to Serbs

AWQAF MINISTER'S EFFORTS DEFENDED

In its 22 February issue, the state-owned weekly 'AQIDATI publishes on page one a 300-word editorial signed by Board Chairman Samir Rajab defending Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub from criticism. The writer begins by saying that it is not surprising to see Dr. Mahjub attacked because he is a successful man, and it has become the habit in Egypt to criticize only successful people. He adds that the main accusation leveled at the minister was that only policemen and state employees attend his seminars and meetings, but this accusation was refuted last week when thousands came to hear him speak in Upper Egypt. The writer then praises the minister for his successful efforts in bringing Christians and Muslims closer together and arranging meetings between Coptic Pope Shinudah and Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Kafi and Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi. In conclusion, the writer says: "While Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub has taken upon himself the task of confronting terrorism with an enlightened mind and a boldness that many lack, he must fully realize that the propagators, planners, and perpetrators of terrorism will use all illegal means to deter him from this noble aim. Hence, what they are using against him now is one of these dirty tricks, intellectual terrorism. But we tell him: Continue on this path and fear nothing but God Almighty, your conscience, and the Egyptian people."

IMAMS URGED TO TAKE PROPAGATION INITIATIVE

Further reporting on Dr. Mahjub's activities, the paper publishes on page two a 450-word report on speeches he made in al-Minya and Asyut that focused on the roles and duties of mosque imams. Speaking in al-Minya, he urged the imams to retake the initiative in propagation and stand firmly against impostors. He said: "Religious propagation and those in charge of it have entered a stage where the situation has become confused and trends have diversified; where a group that has no knowledge of religion, its tenets, or the rules or methods of propagation are vying with the legally, religiously, and constitutionally qualified imams. This has lead to confusion in religious thinking among our youth. Adulterated thinking has been propagated among our youths by a group of people who have nothing to do with their religion's thinking and who are not asked to explain this thinking." He then warned: "We will pay a heavy price and the moderate Islamic course will be affected" if any of the imams fail in their duties. After stating a similar message in a speech in Asyut, the minister added that the state is responsible for the correct concept of Islamic propagation, fully supports religious establishments, and gives them unlimited backing. He then urged the imams to go to the streets, mosques, youth centers, and schools to spread the message.

WESTERN MEDIA CRITICIZED

On page six, the paper publishes a 340-word comment by Basyuni al-Halawani in the "Very Frankly" column, in which he criticizes the Western media for exaggerating "individual and limited" terrorist actions that take place in Egypt in order to distort the image of Islam and damage Egypt's economy. After noting the number of terrorist incidents in Germany in 1993, the writer says that comparing the terrorist incidents in Egypt with those abroad shows that real terrorism is in Europe and not in Egypt, "which remains the most stable and safe country in the world, and that treachery and betrayal will not change the Egyptians' tolerant nature." But, he adds, the western media is persisting in exaggerating these incidents, and this shows that there are specific objectives in this campaign. He then calls for a stand against these correspondents "who speak only in the name of extremism and terrorism and who are looking daily for whatever distorts our image and damages our interests while turning a blind eye to all Egyptian achievements." He adds that this entails drawing up rules and regulations and reviewing our media policy of dealing with terrorism and extremism so as not to give the Western media the opportunity to continue publishing tendentious reports.

KORAN MEANINGS TRANSLATED INTO ALBANIAN, BOSNIAN

The paper carries on page 11 a 700-word report describing the efforts of the Islamic Relief Society and its latest achievement, the printing of 100,000 copies of interpretations of the Koran in the Albanian and Bosnian languages for distribution among Muslims in these two countries.

NATO ULTIMATUM TO SERBS

On page 21, 'AQIDATI carries a 300-word comment by Ashraf Abu-al-Hawl on the aftermath of the NATO ultimatum to the Serbs in Bosnia. He says that NATO should extend this ultimatum to other Muslim areas but concludes by saying that one should not expect "the West to sacrifice its sons for a few Muslims, even if they are Europeans or Slavs, as is the case with the Bosnians. Therefore, we have no choice but to accept the West's solution as long as we cannot resolve it ourselves."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 25 Feb

NC0303113094

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 25 February issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Human Rights Violations Claimed
2. Government-Serbian Ties Cited
3. Mufti Interviewed on Israelis
4. Copts Urged To Denounce Butrus-Ghali
5. Butrus-Ghali Trial Urged
6. Release of Hamas Leader Urged
7. Yusuf Wali Castigated

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS CLAIMED

A 400-word report on pages 1 and 7 cites a statement by the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights claiming irregularities in police handling of confrontations with and arrests of extremists.

GOVERNMENT-SERBIAN TIES ALLEGED

A 350-word report by 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn appears on pages 1 and 7. Abu-Husayn starts out by saying: "Our government has committed a new crime against the memory of Bosnian martyrs, thus refuting all its claims of seeking to stop the Serbian massacres of Bosnian Muslims. Our government continues to deal with European companies exporting weapons to Serbs. It even allowed the Serbian military attache in Cairo to engage in supplying his countries with its military needs in weapons and hardware through a gun-running network of companies in Egypt, Cyprus, and other countries in the region." 'Abd-al-Sattar then summarizes a DER SPIEGEL report to the effect that "Serbian authorities have made Cairo their center for contacts in the region and for providing supplies to the Serbian war machine with the help of the Serbian military attache in Cairo."

MUFTI INTERVIEWED ON ISRAELIS

A 2,700-word report by Muhammad Hilal on page 6 includes Hilal's telephone interviews with Mufti of the Republic Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi and Ahmad Jamal Abu-al-'Aza'im, a leading Egyptian psychologist. The topic of the interviews is a conference held recently in Dar al-Ifta' or the house of Islamic legal opinions, of which the mufti is the head. The conference, organized by Abu-al- 'Aza'im, was attended by Israelis. Hilal is opposed to their presence in this "impregnable Islamic bastion" and questions both the mufti and the psychologist about this event. He writes:

"I said: The Israelis [were] in Dar al-Ifta'. Why, Your Eminence?

"His eminence the mufti is quoted: 'By God, my son. I do not know of their participation in the conference, and I did not notice them in the hall when I delivered the opening speech on "Islam's Way of Resolving Conflicts." '"

The mufti then explains that he granted Abu-al-'Aza'im's request to use the Dar al-Ifta's conference room without inquiring about the identity of the delegates. Asked what he will do if Abu-al-'Aza'im requests using the conference room for another conference, the mufti is cited saying: "After what happened, I will ask him about the identity of the delegations he will invite." Hilal presses the mufti further:

"I said: 'If, among the delegations, there is an Israeli delegation, will you refuse to hold the conference in Dar-al-Ifta?'

"His eminence the mufti said: 'Listen, my son, do not ask me who entered Dar al-Ifta' and what his identity or religion was. But ask me what Dar al-Ifta' will tell them.'"

Jalal then asks the mufti about his speech to the conference and the mufti says: "I only delivered the opening speech and welcomed the guests. If you want to learn more, get in touch with Dr. Abu-al-'Aza'im."

Jalal does that, phoning Abu-al-'Aza'im, who reacts to his questions with a call for dialogue as a means of ending hostilities in the region. The psychologist says: "Frankly speaking, enmity between us and Israel is a mere psychological wall that we are trying to demolish so that everyone may live in peace."

COPTS URGED TO DENOUNCE BUTRUS-GHALI

A 600-word column by Dr. Muhammad Muru appears on page 6 under the headline "Conspiracy against Egyptian Copts." Muru writes: "Sectarianism is an old imperial game that never goes out of fashion. Egypt, which remains a major obstacle to the imperialist and Zionist scheme, is facing a multiple threat. Turning Copts against Muslims in Egypt is an old policy that was pursued by British imperialism and by American and Zionist imperialism more recently. As part of this scheme, Muslim sensitivities are provoked so that they turn against Copts, making them hostile to the national cultural endeavor and swear allegiance to the Western imperial scheme."

Muru reviews the history of Prime Minister Butrus-Ghali, a Coptic politician, who, hated by the nationalist movement, was assassinated in 1910 by a fellow Copt. The slain prime minister is the grandfather of the current UN secretary general, with whose policies Muru disagrees: "Today, Butrus-Ghali, the grandson, acts in a similar manner that provokes every Egyptian. The Coptic Egyptian UN secretary general does not hide his sympathies with Israel, describes UN Security Council Resolution 242 as not binding, and acquits himself as a hardliner in affairs concerning the blockade of Iraqi children and the Libyan people."

The UN secretary general, Muru adds, "plays a suspicious and insolent part in the continuing massacres against the Bosnian people."

Muru then reasons that the Copts should denounce the "crimes" of the UN secretary general, as their grandfathers denounced his grandfather's, "so as to foil the imperialist scheme aiming to foment hostility between the country's two religious communities."

BUTRUS-GHALI TRIAL URGED

A 1,100-word report by Khalid Yunus on page 7 concerns a seminar held by the Egyptian Committee for Supporting Bosnia on Monday 21 February. He writes: "The seminar held by the Egyptian Committee for Supporting Bosnia last Monday on the subject of 'UN Legal and International Responsibility Toward the Bosnian Issue' called for staging a popular trial of the United Nations and its Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali and for the formation of a preparatory committee to make arrangements for the trial within two months."

The seminar, Yunus adds, was attended by "a large number of international law experts and political figures, led by Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri."

Addressing the seminar, Labor Party leader Shukri is cited as saying that "the trial of the United Nations and its Secretary General Butrus-Ghali is an urgent necessity in view of UN positions and resolutions that only serve Serbian schemes."

RELEASE OF HAMAS LEADER URGED

An unattributed 350-word column entitled "Palestinian Issues: Vatican and Shaykh Yasin" appears on page 8. The unidentified columnist notes that the Vatican is marking the holocaust.

The writer asks: "What is curious is that this is the first time the Vatican is marking this occasion, which is taking place at a time when the truth about this presumed pogrom is starting to come out. Studies appearing even in the West speak of a big lie behind this story that has been touted for decades and been used by champions of Zionism to flagellate the world into a feeling of guilt so that they may earn undeserved compensation for an alleged tragedy."

The columnist wonders why the Vatican should feel sympathy with a tragedy that "even if it is true" happened decades ago but overlooks the "living tragedy" of the Palestinian people. The columnist then asserts that the health of Ahmad Yasin, 58-year-old spiritual leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas, "is seriously deteriorating as he languishes in an Israeli jail." The writer concludes: "Where are those who negotiate and mediate with Israel? Why don't they call for the release of the paralyzed shaykh?"

YUSUF WALI CASTIGATED

AL-SHA'B continues its long-running campaign against Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, livestock and fisheries, and land reclamation. A 2,200-word report by Salah Budaywi headlined "Wali and the Zionists Prepare a 45-Clause Plan To Promote the Idea of a Middle East Market" appears on page 10.

Budaywi notes that the "Higer Zionist-Egyptian Agricultural Committee held its 18th session in Cairo late in the week before last." He then highlights a 25-point protocol on agricultural cooperation that was signed by both sides and calls for the establishment of joint scientific research centers and training programs.

Throughout his report, Budaywi attempts to make the point that such cooperation with the "Zionist entity" is designed to ensure regional supremacy for the latter. For example, he writes: "The two sides agreed to request assistance from Washington in implementing a joint program in the framework of the Middle East market. The program, involving the United States, Egypt, the Zionist entity, and the Palestinians, aims at reclaiming desert areas in the Middle East and improving agriculture production. The program is designed to give the Zionist entity and its experts the upper hand."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Hebron, Security Council 'Battle'

NC0403102594 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, referred to as the "President of the State of Palestine," in Tunis, by Muhammad al-Ashwaf, in Cairo, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Ashwaf] President 'Arafat, we welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Arafat] Thank you.

[Al-Ashwaf] Mr. President, what is the Palestinian position on the consequences of the terrible massacre perpetrated by the Jewish settlers against our Palestinian people in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron last Friday? What new political and security revelations has this event provided?

['Arafat] We must first point out that we were expecting such tragedies and wished to implement the Washington and Cairo Agreements quickly. But it is clear that the Israeli leaders are determined to continue their ploys of not implementing the agreement and evading commitment to the agreed deadlines. I wish now to refer to a grave issue, which we have discussed very frankly with the Israeli officials. This is connected with the involvement of some Israeli army units in the Hebron crime, a crime that recalls an earlier massacre in the al-Aqsa Mosque and another in Rishon LeZiyyon, that is, the 'Ayn Qarah. These army units were also involved in other tragedies and clashes following the Hebron massacre. Over 29 martyrs and 280 wounded have fallen in addition to the large number of victims who fell in Hebron: Some 65 martyrs and 256 wounded. One massacre followed another: First, the catastrophic massacre in Hebron and another perpetrated by the army in which 29 martyrs fell and 280 were wounded. What does this mean? This means that, as we have noted, some Israeli army units are in collusion with the armed settlers. I said this to Rabin when he telephoned me to express his condolences. I told him: I have such and such information. Under 20 minutes after the massacre, they—my brothers Mustafa al-Natshah, 'Aziz 'Amr, 'Ali al-Qawasimah, and the doctors at the hospital—telephoned me from al-Ahli Hospital in Hebron and told me that an attack was waged against the people who had gathered in the hospital to see the victims. What does this mean? The Israeli Army is colluding with the settlers. Are we confronting the same thing that our Algerian brothers faced at the hands of the secret army? Our Algerian brothers faced the same thing after they concluded the Evian Treaty.

[Al-Ashwaf] President 'Arafat, the ugly crime against the worshippers in the Ibrahimi Mosque has brought the issue of Palestinian security strongly to the fore and showed that undue emphasis on Israeli security involves a major falsehood. What are your views about providing security for the Palestinians in light of the Hebron massacre?

['Arafat] It is clear now how hollow the Israeli ploy was. Whenever we made any proposal, they used the settlers' security as an excuse. What must now be provided is security for the Palestinian people. This is why we insisted on submitting the issue to the Security Council. We had a lot of trouble before we could convene a meeting of the Security Council. We really had a lot of trouble. Our Egyptian brothers, as the current chairmen of the Arab group at the United Nations, are working directly with us and know how much trouble we had at the Security Council before we could convene the current session. We are asking the Security Council to do two things: First, to disarm the settlers, because there must be no power other than the Israeli occupying army, and second, to provide an international force to protect the Palestinian people, our children, women, men, and masses and our Islamic and Christian sanctities. Do you follow me? We are trying at the Security Council and we hope to get a resolution adopted. We hope to do this despite the difficulty of the discussions and the maneuvering. We are waging a fierce battle at the Security Council.

[Al-Ashwaf] Mr. President, you have demanded international protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. What is the extent of that protection? Or, what measures do you consider sufficient to meet the requirements of that protection?

['Arafat] We want protection like that established for our brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina, like the international protection in Cambodia or that in Somalia. Why should the Palestinian people alone be deprived of international protection?

[Al-Ashwaf] Speaking about an international force, Israel has announced its acceptance of a civilian international presence in Gaza and Jericho alone. Do you think this is sufficient?

['Arafat] Of course, it is not sufficient. Should we also get guards to protect international observers? Where could we obtain such protection, for God's sake? Is it a joke? This shows their carelessness; it shows that the crime and the massacre moved nothing in the Israeli mentality.

[Al-Ashwaf] We move to another point: The repercussions of the crime have led the Arab-Israeli negotiations, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track, to a real impasse. What is the scale of that impasse?

['Arafat] As we announced, we and the brother Arabs who suspended the talks are not against negotiations. We have particular terms to be fulfilled before we can resume these talks.

[Al-Ashwaf] What are these terms?

['Arafat] We should at least see what will happen, whether in the UN Security Council or in the Israeli Government; we should see whether the Israeli Government will take particular measures against the settlers and their weapons. I would like to remind everyone, near and far, of what Rabin said. Didn't he say there were political and security settlements? Some of these settlements belong to those extremists. What measures will Israel take against the settlements that belong to extremist groups like Kakh, Barukh, and God knows who else? What can I tell you? There are varying groups. Our people are required to offer all these sacrifices on every level. I would like to say that these massacres have not enfeebled us. We are the people of martyrs, liberals, revolutionaries, and strugglers. We are a formidable people. Massacres will not make us kneel down, epics will not weaken us, and conspiracies will not lower our morals. "So lose not heart nor fall into despair, for ye must gain mastery" [Koranic verse]. This must be clear to everyone, near and far. Tragedies and massacres will only make us stronger and firmer. We are the servants of this holy land; each one of us is willing to sacrifice his life. "On that day shall the believers rejoice with the help of God. He helps whom he will and he is exalted in might, most merciful" [Koranic verse].

[Al-Ashwaf] You earlier noted that Israel promoted weapons in the occupied territories. What is the truth in this?

['Arafat] I am saying that these [settlers] are units of the Israeli army. This means that we are up against the same situation our brother Algerians encountered. A secret organization within the army is distributing weapons so that when they withdraw, an inter-Palestinian massacre will ensue. No inter-Palestinian massacre will take place. We differ in our views. [Second Muslim Caliph] 'Umar Ibn-al-Khattab said: May God have mercy on a man who corrects 'Umar's mistakes. We welcome counterviews. But this will neither dissuade us nor weaken our determination.

[Al-Ashwaf] Mr. President, before we conclude this dialogue, would you say a word to the sons of the steadfast Palestinian people in the occupied territories?

['Arafat] I tell them that this is an opportunity to enhance the unity of our ranks and to stand up in one line against our enemy. "Truly God loves those who fight in his cause in battle array as if they were a solid cemented structure" [Koranic verse]. I say to them: Have patience and rely on God's help. I know the road is difficult and long but our determination is stronger and we are more patient. "Our Lord, pour out constancy on us and make our steps firm and help us against those that reject faith." "Blot out our sins and grant us forgiveness and have mercy on us. Thou art our protector. Help us against those who stand against faith" [Koranic verse]. God willing, we will get together soon to pray in the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque and the Ibrahimi Mosque. We will also pray at the Church of the Sepulcher and in Bethlehem as one people with one firm will. "That even the apostle and those of faith who were with him cried: When will come the help of God? Ah! Verily, the help of God is always near," [Koranic verse]. We will stick together until victory, victory, victory with the help of God.

[Al-Ashwaf] Would you like to emphasize anything else?

['Arafat] I would like to thank my brothers in Egypt and President Mubarak for the effort they are making with us. I thank the custodian of the two holy mosques, my brothers in the Arab Maghreb, all our Arab brothers, and the Islamic and Christian powers that have stood firmly with us on the incident. I thank them for their support. We will stick together until we get to Jerusalem, God willing.

[Al-Ashwaf] We thank you deeply and welcome you always on the Voice of the Arabs.

['Arafat] God willing, we will pray together in Jerusalem.

[Al-Ashwaf] God willing.

'Arafat Forms Committee To Probe Mosque Attack

NC0303140394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 3 Mar (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has decided to set up an investigative committee made up of some prominent figures in the city of Hebron in the occupied West Bank to investigate the circumstances of the massacre that took place in al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron last Friday. The Palestinian president's decision stipulates that this committee will cooperate with a committee of Arab lawyers in Jerusalem; the Research Center of the University Graduates' Association; Hebron University; and national, Arab, and international personalities, institutions, and associations.

The decision also stipulates that the committee begins work and submits its report to the PLO Executive Committee as soon as possible.

'Cable' to Rabin on Settlers' Mosque Activity

NC0403090994

[Editorial Report] Nicosia FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic on 6 March publishes on page 11 what it claims to be a photocopy of a cable sent on 16 October 1993 by the chairman of the Supreme Islamic Committee in Jerusalem and the chairman of the Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Council to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin complaining about the settlers' practices in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. The "cable" reads:

"Mr. Prime Minister and Defense Minister, Tel Aviv:

"Subject: The Holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque

"On the evening of Friday 8 October 1993, a number of Jewish settlers attacked six of the guards of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque and a 64-year-old worshipper during and after the call for evening prayers after a certain (Barukh) [parenthesis as published] attacked the muezzin. Incendiary chemical material was thrown on the mosque's carpets on the evening of Thursday 14 October 1993. But for the vigilance of the guards and worshippers, the worst could have happened.

"These repeated daily attacks on the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque cannot remain ignored.

"Regrettably, we have never felt that the Israeli authorities have adopted any measures on the practices of these aggressive settlers.

"We would like to make it clear that we did not approve in the past, do not approve now, and will not approve or condone any prayers by non-Muslims in the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque. We hope the officials will put an end to these provocative and aggressive practices against the freedom of worship and against the Muslims' absolute right to their mosque." The cable is signed:

"With due respect,

"Chairman of the Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Council,

"Chairman of the Supreme Islamic Committee/Jerusalem

"Written on 16 October 1993"

PLO Letter to Peres Details Talk 'Conditions'

LD0303132694 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Excerpt] After its recent meetings in Tunis following the Hebron massacre, the PLO leadership has sent a letter to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that includes a number of conditions before resuming peace talks. Among these conditions is the protection of Palestinian citizens. This letter was conveyed to the Israeli minister last night by the chairman of the EU Council of Ministers, who left Tunisia yesterday, and by the Russian deputy foreign minister, who carried a private message from President Boris Yeltsin for President Yasir 'Arafat.

The chairman of the EU Council of Ministers had also met President Yasir 'Arafat. After the meeting, the Israeli foreign minister said he was ready to discuss any new conditions with the PLO provided they did not contradict with the Declaration of Principles. Peres added that some conditions included in the organization's letter, like the release of prisoners, had been met and that other conditions were unclear.

Regarding a likely Security Council resolution concerning foreign presence in Gaza and Jericho, Peres said that was possible in accordance with what had been stipulated in one of the Declaration of Principles' clauses, but that presence would not be an alternative to the Palestinian police force, increasing the number of which will be discussed by the two sides. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Assistant on Talks Deadlock, 'Struggle'

NC0403073594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Interview with Jibril Rajjub, PLO adviser on territorial affairs, by Moti Amir in Tunis on the "Morning Newsreel" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Amir] The PLO leader these days enjoys almost total support in the PLO Executive Committee and among his advisers. All of them support his demand to disarm the settlers, reorganize the settlements before the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and deploy international observers in the territories.

'Arafat's assistant Jibril Rajjub told us in an interview in Tunis that Israel is responsible for torpedoing the Oslo agreement.

[Rajjub] I believe the PLO cannot resume the peace process or negotiations without a new basis. The new basis is solving the problem of the settlers. I think that uprooting all the settlers from Hebron is the only solution to return to the negotiations. Those who killed and those who danced and celebrated after the brutal massacre in the mosque will have no peace and there will be no coexistence with them. We will not give them security while they live in Hebron.

[Amir] What are you afraid of? What can happen in Hebron now?

[Rajjub] Anything is possible. One day a mad person might come and do the same thing. No one can guarantee that the Hebronites will not take revenge. What happened motivates us all to take revenge and react in the way they see fit. It is better to solve the whole problem and remove the settlers. I think we will be traitors if we agree that those who celebrated the massacre in Hebron will remain in Hebron.

[Amir] Does this mean the negotiations remain deadlocked and that you are reopening the Oslo agreement?

[Rajjub] Listen, the deadlock happened after the brutal massacre in Hebron. Negotiations have taken place over six months following the Declaration of Principles agreement. The negotiations have always been linked with the security and peace of the settlers and settlements. What happened proved that security and peace can be achieved when we send the settlers to hell.

[Amir] Rajjub announced that Fatah will renew the armed struggle against Israel. Was this a PLO instruction?

[Rajjub] There has been no decision to end the struggle. Perhaps the means have changed but as long as there is occupation and settlers, no orders are given to end the struggle.

[Amir] Will the Fatah Movement initiate a revenge operation following the Hebron massacre?

[Rajjub] Anything is possible. I think this is a possibility. No one can tell you that something like this won't happen.

[Amir] Regarding the contacts between Tzomet and the Labor Party, total indifference is being demonstrated on the surface. But Palestinian sources note that including Tzomet in the government will, in their opinion, restrict the Israeli Government's freedom of action in the negotiations with the Palestinians and enable Rabin to act more forcefully against the extremists among the settlers.

Envoy: PLO, U.S. Stances on Hebron Converging

PM0303114194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Mar 94 p3

[Khalil Matar report: "PLO's UN Representative Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: U.S. Position Gradually Getting Closer to Ours"]

[Text] New York—Nasir al-Qudwah, Palestinian representative at the United Nations, has emphasized that the PLO will not back down from its position reflected in the Palestinian draft resolution submitted to the Security Council. That, he stressed, is the acceptable minimum. He praised the attitude of the Arab and Islamic groups and their full support for the PLO demands.

It should be noted that the United States and the PLO were until yesterday evening trying to break the deadlock over the drafting of a Security Council resolution condemning the massacre. Two draft resolutions have been submitted to the Security Council since last Friday. One of them is a Palestinian draft resolution, supported by the Arab and Islamic states and also by some other states, requesting protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territory, in addition to condemning the massacre and being binding on Israel. The other is a U.S. draft resolution just condemning the massacre without any commitment.

The council is supposed to have resumed its consultations last night. On the Palestinian draft resolution, al-Qudwah told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Our position has, from the first moment, been that the council should convene officially and pass a resolution containing the following elements:

1. A clear and strong condemnation of the massacre;

2. Confirmation that the fourth Geneva Convention applies to all the occupied territory including Jerusalem;

3. A call for a UN presence in the occupied territory to provide protection for the Palestinian people there;

4. A request that Israel and the occupation forces take specific measures against the settlers, including disarming them.

He added: "At the beginning the Americans insisted that a statement by the chairman would be sufficient, but now their position is gradually drawing closer to ours. We will not change our position because it is not a tactical position. We are asking for the minimum." In response to the U.S. position that what the draft resolution calls for in connection with the protection point is based on the Declaration of Principles on Gaza and Jericho and as such is an attempt to expand its scope prematurely, al-Qudwah said: "My understanding is that there is no qualitative difference between Gaza and Jericho and the rest of the occupied territory. There may be a differentiation only as far as the time factor is concerned, but that does not mean that there should be discrimination on the principle, particularly as the Declaration of Princples stipulates that it is a first step that would extend to all the occupied Palestinian territory."

On early participation by the Security Council in measures not agreed on with the Israelis, as the Americans say, the Palestinian representative declared: "As far as we are concerned the Security Council was and remains the body solely responsible for anything connected with Israeli violations of the fourth Geneva Convention whether there is a peace process or not. This is based on the understanding we reached with former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker before the Madrid conference."

He added: "We are not trying to find an alternative mechanism to the current peace process, but we stress that the council's role on matters which only it has the power to legislate or confirm should be preserved." On the reference to Jerusalem, he said: "The phraseology regarding it in the draft resolution cannot be changed at all because that is the same phraseology used in all the UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions since 1967. Any change would mean some kind of concession and acceptance of the Israeli position on it. Jerusalem is an integral part of the occupied territory and nobody can deny our right to it." He added: "As regards the claim that, having agreed to the postponement of the negotiations on the status of Jerusalem and the settlements, the Palestinians should drop their advance demands regarding them—that claim is rejected. The legal status of the settlements is still the same, and there has been no political change that would make it incumbent on us to abandon our position on them. They remain illegitimate irrespective of when the negotiations on them take place. The same thing applies to Jerusalem, which remains an occupied territory regardless of when the negotiations on its final status take place."

Source: PLO Minister Due in Paris for Talks

LD0303132094 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Excerpt] A well informed Palestinian source in Tunis last night confirmed that Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the head of the PLO Information Department would arrive in Paris today to hold talks with French officials regarding the conditions of resuming Israeli-Palestinian economic talks, halted since the Hebron massacre. This is within the framework of what the PLO Executive Committee decided in its recent meetings regarding sending envoys to Western countries to explain its [PLO] conditions for resuming talks with Israel on the implementation of the agreement on Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

A French Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said yesterday that France, who is chairing the [UN] Security Council this month, was hoping for the Security Council's approval of a resolution very soon. The spokeswoman raised the [issue of the] need for the immediate implementation by the Israeli authorities of the measures taken against the settlers and those to the benefit of the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

'Abd-Rabbuh Supports UN Observers' Presence

AU0403122994 Paris AFP in English 1219 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Paris, March 4 (AFP)—PLO information chief Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said Friday [25 February] that the presence of international observers under UN supervision would greatly help to restore Palestinian confidence after the Hebron massacre.

'Abd-Rabbuh, speaking after a meeting with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, said an observer presence "would have a very strong symboiic meaning to restore confidence among the Palestinians of the occupied territories."

Juppe confirmed that France was prepared to send observers under United Nations authority, adding that Israel's security measures needed to be observed by "international representatives mandated by the UN."

On Thursday [3 March] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd backed the idea of an international force to protect Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and said Britain was ready to take part.

Juppe said he hoped a UN Security Council resolution on the observers would be passed "as soon as possible." The resolution has been held up for almost a week because of differences with the United States.

'Abd-Rabbuh visited Paris as part of a Palestine Liberation Organisation effort in world capitals to explain its conditions for resuming autonomy negotiations with Israel.

The negotiations were broken off after the massacre, in which 52 Palestinians were slaughtered in a mosque by an Israeli gunman.

Resuming the peace process and putting the autonomy accord into effect would be "unthinkable" at a time when "armed settlers are walking freely among the Palestinians," 'Abd-Rabbuh said.

'Abd-Rabbuh will next visit Brussels for a meeting with European Commission President Jacques Delors. Nabil Sha'th, PLO chairman Yasir Arafat's advisor, met with Hurd in London on Thursday before heading for Washington where he was set to meet Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Friday.

Quray' Says 'No Alternative to Negotiations'

JN0303170694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1610 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', chief of the PLO Economic Department, in Tunis, by Sa'id Mu'addi, in the studio, from the "With the Events" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Apparently, there is no alternative to resuming the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. What is the solution for the resumption of these negotiations?

[Quray'] First of all, we believe there is no alternative to negotiations in order to implement the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington. However, the negotiations cannot be resumed without providing an appropriate climate and the necessary conditions to resume them. Therefore, confidence, which has been undermined, must be restored and there should be an appropriate climate. The Israeli Government should work seriously to provide this climate because matters are in its hands, and not in the hands of others at all. The Israeli Government should first ensure that settlers will not move about carrying weapons outside their homes, if it is unable to immediately disarm them. The second point is that there should be a serious discussion about dismantling a certain group of settlements, since those settlements constitute a real threat to the peace process. The third point is that the Palestinian people are worried about their security. After the Declaration of Principles has been signed and while we are discussing with the Israelis the security issues that concern them, it is now time to have a serious discussion about the security of the Palestinians. The real threat is the one against Palestinian security. Therefore, the Palestinians should rest assured that there is protection for them. Why not have an international presence? Why not?

[Mu'addi] Do these conditions represent the minimum demands in order to resume the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations?

[Quray'] First of all, I did not set conditions. I spoke about providing an appropriate climate conducive to the success of the negotiations. This massacre has created a psychological shock. Therefore, an appropriate climate should be created. This is not in our hands. It is in the hands of the Israeli Government. The ball now is in the Israeli Government's court. If it wants this process to succeed and this agreement to be implemented, then it should promptly take these measures. Another question, which I believe should be taken into consideration if the Israelis are serious, is that a committee should be formed now to hold negotiations on the question of settlements. I know the discussion of settlement activity was postponed until the final status negotiations, but this massacre has proven that settlements should be discussed now. I am not setting this as a condition related to the Gaza-Jericho agreement, but I am pointing out this issue so that it can be discussed as of now. By the time the final negotiations are held, this process will have made major steps and some measures probably will have been taken.

[Mu'addi] Don't you think that these proposals or conditions mean the reopening of the Oslo accord?

[Quray'] The Oslo accord is open in the first place, and it is being negotiated. What is proposed here is not amending it, but giving it dynamism and vitality. As is the case with any agreement, the stages of its negotiation and implementation create dynamism and vitality to make it succeed should there be any obstacles. So we are only opening the negotiations about settlement activity. Why not do this? This does not mean that the Oslo agreement has been rejected or that its file has been reopened, as has been said. Israel is attempting to go forward without resolving the problems obstructing implementation. This should not happen.

[Mu'addi] It was announced in Tunis today that a Palestinian committee of inquiry was formed to investigate the criminal incident in Hebron. What will this committee do and is it possible for it to cooperate with the Israeli counterpart committee?

[Quray'] It is simply a fact-finding committee to compile a complete file about this ugly, horrendous, unprecedented massacre. Regarding the possibility of cooperation, well, this committee is going to find all the facts and everything that is necessary to have all the information.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Ahmad Quray'. Thank you very much.

[Quray'] You are welcome.

Qaddumi Calls For Secure Areas, Withdrawal

NC0303135094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Damascus, 3 Mar (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has urged the United States and U.S. President Bill Clinton to adopt tangible measures to give impetus to the peace process and make Israel implement the principles on which this progress is based, namely the exchange of land for peace and full withdrawal from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories.

In a statement to MENA's Damascus correspondent, Qaddumi said that it is necessary to expedite the withdrawal from the Palestinian territories under the commitment made by Israel and witnessed by the United States on 13 September 1993.

Qaddumi added that it is also necessary to disarm the settlers and remove the political settlements that Rabin, when he became prime minister, said were dispensable.

Qaddumi, who is visiting Syria, affirmed that recent events have proven that the Zionist movement is a racist movement. He announced that the PLO will ask the United Nations to revive its resolution equating Zionism with racism, which the United States has tried to delete from UN records.

Qaddumi emphasized the need to create secure areas at friction points in the occupied Arab territories, notably in Jerusalem, Hebron, and Bethlehem.

He urged the international community to make serious efforts to encourage the peace process by adopting prompt decisions to dispatch international forces to protect the Palestinians living under occupation and to pressure Israel to make an immediate withdrawal. He said Jerusalem, Hebron, and Bethlehem must be placed under international protection until the final phase of the political settlement arrives.

Qaddumi said this final phase must come soon and that there is no need for a transitional period.

He pointed out that such prompt measures will encourage Palestinian-Israeli coexistence and warned that delay might inflame the region and pose a threat to security and peace.

Qaddumi urged the United States, in its capacity as peace sponsor, to shoulder a great responsibility and take concrete steps to give impetus to the peace operations, not merely issue an invitation for negotiations and seek to defuse international anger by such an invitation.

Qaddumi concluded his remarks by saying that the United States must adopt concrete measures, via the United Nations, to provide the necessary protection for the Palestinians and halt the Israeli settlers' criminal actions. He called for pressure on Israel to make it disarm the settlers and remove the political settlements.

Hamas Asks 'Arafat 'To Step Aside and Resign'

JN0303120294 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Mar 93 p 20

[Text] Amman—QUDS PRESS—The Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement has asked Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to step aside and resign his leadership of the Palestinian people, accusing him of representing only himself and an isolated group, which is oppressing our Palestinian people, as a responsible source in the movement said.

Commenting on a letter 'Arafat sent in response to a letter to him by Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, chief of the Hamas political bureau, the source said:

We in the Hamas Movement were astonished by the way 'Arafat replied to our letter in which we asked him to return to national ranks and make the courageous decision to withdraw from the negotiations. We believed the horrible massacre of worshipers in Hebron would shake 'Arafat to his foundations and prompt him to reconsider and withdraw from the negotiations. However, nothing of the kind happened. 'Arafat attempted to absorb the overwhelming popular indignation against his collapsing policy.

By saying in his letter that a deviation from his and the PLO's policy is a deviation from the national consensus, 'Arafat seems to be saying that the majority of the Palestinian people are outside the national consensus and that he regards only himself and his capitulating minority as the entire Palestinian people. This is gross contempt for our people and their fighting forces. It appears 'Arafat is unaware of the pulse of the indignant

Palestinian masses who are angry with him and his capitulationist policy, and his shaky stand against the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

The PLO's conditions for returning to negotiations are flimsy and cannot be compared with the size of the massacre. Yet 'Arafat and his cohorts would soon decide to resume negotiations the moment their U.S. master makes a decision to this effect.

We ask 'Arafat to step aside and resign his leadership of the Palestinian people because he represents only himself and an isolated group that is oppressing our people.

SAWT AL-SHA'B publishes herewith the verbatim text of 'Arafat's letter in answer to the letter sent by the chief of the Hamas political bureau as disseminated by Palestinian embassies and press agencies:

I have read your letter on the deplorable massacre perpetrated by fanatic Israeli settlers, with the participation and support of Israeli Army units, against our steadfast, pious people who were kneeling in prayer at the Ibrahimi Mosque in the city of Khalil al- Rahman [Abraham]. God said in his clear book of wisdom: But those who are slain in the way of God, He will never let their deeds be lost; soon will he guide them and improve their condition and admit them to the garden which he has announced for them. [Koranic verses]

This is the time for unity, solidarity, and unity of ranks and not for division and differences. We are now in need of unity and cohesion more than ever before because we are waging a very fierce battle to find a drastic and comprehensive solution to the problem of settlements and to disarming the settlers and to ensure international protection for our people. The souls of our pious martyrs, all of our martyrs, are beacons to light our path in order to enter Palestine raising the banners of Jihad, struggle, and victory. Our direction is holy Jerusalem, the first of the two qiblahs, the third holiest mosque, and the capital of our independent state. We are potential martyrs on the way to Palestine. Then give the glad tidings to the believers. [Koranic verse]

Palestine has returned to the political and geographical map, thanks to decades of Palestinian people's jihad and struggle on all levels and forums. The savage and deplorable murders committed by the fanatic extremists are a desperate attempt to prevent our people from reaching their national aims of ending the Israeli occupation and saving our Islamic and Christian holy places from the yoke of occupation and restoring our people's inalienable national rights, including their right to return, to exercise self-determination, and to establish their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Palestine is the focus of our attention and the dearest place to our hearts. It is the bride whose dowry is paid by the lives of our men. Struggle and jihad will continue to regain it and realize just peace for it so that our Palestinian people will be able to live in peace, justice, and stability. Everyone is asked to stand together behind the PLO, our people's sole legitimate representative, in its policy and methods that have been approved by the our successive national councils.

To deviate from these policies is to deviate from the national consensus, causes great harm to our people's just cause. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And we shall try you until we test those among you who strive their utmost and persevere in patience, and we shall try your reported mettle. [Koranic verse]

We pray to almighty God to grant us one of the two favors: either victory or martyrdom.

Fatah Leader: Israeli Response to Hebron 'Cosmetic'

TA0203154394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Mar 94 p 2

[By 'Ala' al-Mashahrawi]

[Text] Gaza—Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, a Fatah leader in the Gaza Strip, has described the steps taken by the Israeli Government in response to the Ibrahmi Mosque massacre as cosmetic steps and as an attempt to deflect the Palestinian and Arab peoples' anger.

Dr. al-Agha said that those steps are in no way sufficient and do not represent serious measures vis-a-vis the size of the tragedy that has taken place. He added that the release of a few hundred prisoners has no connection with any serious steps, especially as the prison term of most of those prisoners was about to end.

As for the Palestinian leadership's stance toward the painful massacre and the steps that it has taken, Dr. al-Agha said that the Palestinian leadership's response is somewhat acceptable and is epitomized by suspending the talks until two basic conditions are met. They are:

1. Placing the settlements issue as a top priority on the agenda and, ultimately, evacuating the settlements and disarming the settlers.

2. Imposing international protection, with UN supervision, in the occupied territories to ensure that the Palestinians live in peace and security.

Fatah Hawks Urge Arab Soldiers in Israeli Army To Rebel

JN0303132694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Mar pp 36, 30

[Text] The hawks of the western sector of the Palestine National Liberation Movement (Fatah) have appealed to Arab—Druze and Bedouin—soldiers in the Israeli Army, who are working in what is called the Zionist border guard and security bodies, to rebel against their leadership in the Army and border guard.

A statement addressing these soldiers was distributed in Nabulus, Tulkarm, Hebron, and other cities. The statement says: Your history, dignity, Arabism, and Arab magnanimity require you to rebel. This call is a sincere invitation to rescue yourself from the quagmire of crime against our kinsfolk and clan.

The statement adds: Our call is genuine and does not stem from emotions. Throughout the years, we have persevered and we have suppressed our pain and sorrow as we saw part of our own people practice killing and terrorism against our people everywhere in southern Lebanon and Palestine.

The statement says: It is now time for you to return to your genuine Arab dignity and magnanimity that was upheld by the great struggler Sultan Pasha al-Atrash followed by the great struggler Kamal Junblat. Let those heroes be your paragon of honor and dignity.

The statement says colonialist invaders are evicted and defeated and oppressed people triumph. History tells us about the invaders and colonialists. Remember your ancestors at Jabal al-'Arab who, led by struggler Sultan Pasha al-'Atrash, defeated and evicted the French, just as they were evicted from Algeria and just as the United States left Vietnam in defeat.

Fatah hawks also sent a warning to settlers in the occupied Palestinian territories that says: As of 28 February, you are being pursued wherever you are. Our fighters will pursue you and the occupation army and other security bodies will not protect you.

The warning says: It is time for retribution. Your only chance is to immediately leave the settlements before it is too late. The warning adds: If you leave, you will survive. Leave the settlement immediately. Your life from now on will be at the mercy of our heroic men.

Committee Rejects Joint Supervision of Shrines

NC0403075094 Nicosia FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 Feb 94 p 8

[Text] In a statement distributed on 14 February, the Supreme Islamic Committee [SIC] in Jerusalem rejected Israeli proposals to discuss the future supervision of the Islamic holy shrines in the occupied territories, such as the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, al-Nabi Yusuf Tomb in Nabulus, al-Nabi Samuil Mosque in Jerusalem, and Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem, on the basis that these holy places are sacred to both Muslims and Jews.

The statement said: The Islamic mosques should not be a place of worship for non-Muslims. The mosques to which the proposals refer and that are mentioned in the statement are Islamic mosques built by Muslims.

The statement added: The current practices in the mosques are based on the force of the occupation. From the beginning, the SIC has objected to these practices, stressing its adherence to the Muslim holy shrines and mosques.

Signatures Collected for Anti-Negotiations Memos

JN0303185794 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Mar 94 pp 24, 21

[Report by Riyad Mansur]

[Text] The collection of a million Palestinian signatures to a memorandum calling for an end to negotiations with Israel, unless it agrees to end all settlement activities and dismantle all settlements, has started. The signatures of Palestine National Council [PNC] members and national and popular figures to a similar memorandum has also started to be collected. The first memo, called "the National Consensus Document," was prepared by the Habash-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Hawatimah-led Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] in the occupied Palestinian territories. Its final draft was worked out yesterday after consultations with the two fronts' leaders abroad. It reads as follows:

The ugly crime and horrendous massacre against the defenseless sons of our people in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque, in collusion with the occupation forces, is clear and unequivocal evidence of the premeditated intentions against the sons of our heroic Palestinian people and are meant to force them to relinquish their legitimate rights. Accordingly, we in the occupied Palestinian territories call for suspending the current negotiations until the following conditions are met:

1. Israel's explicit agreement to halt all settlement activities, expansion, and confiscation of lands.

2. A pledge to dismantle all settlements, considering them illegal according to the international legitimacy resolutions.

3. Rebuilding the negotiations on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy on the Palestine question.

4. Providing direct international protection for our people and their holy places, and forcing Israel to respect all international charters and norms, the Fourth Geneva Convention, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The document stressed that withdrawing from the occupied territories, guaranteeing our people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, and implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy are considered a basic condition for the establishment of peace in the region.

The two fronts' representatives in the PNC also began to collect the signatures of the PNC members and national and popular figures on a similar memo prepared by Taysir Khalid from the DFLP, 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh from the PFLP, and Sulayman al-Najjab from the Palestinian People's Party. Al-Najjab, however, disclaimed the memo in whose formulation he participated. The representatives of the three organizations drafted this memo after the failure of 120 PNC members in Jordan to agree to a joint stand toward the Hebron massacre.

The memo calls for and end to the current overt and covert bilateral talks with the Israeli enemy until the international community, particularly the Security Council, and Israel respond to our just demands which are:

1. Dismantling the settlements and stopping all settlement activities in accordance with the UN resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolution 465 for 1980, which considers these settlements illegal, and evacuating settlers from all the occupied Palestinian territories, including holy Jerusalem.

2. Securing international protection for our Palestinian people under occupation, applying the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to the occupied territories, and entrusting security in the territories to UN forces for a temporary period of time until the Palestinian people can assume responsibility and national authority.

Algeria

Authorities Report on Recent Security Incidents

5 Deaths, 12 Arrests Reported

LD0203181294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The security services today announced that five people were killed in the past 72 hours in a number of provinces. Among the victims was a 17-year-old secondary school student who was assassinated outside her home in the new council estate in the municipality of Meftah in Blida Province. Four gunmen forced their way into the home of a 62-year-old woman named Derradj Adjouba and killed her with a knife. A teacher of the Koran was shot dead in the municipality of Meddah in Chlef. In Algiers, the bodies of a customs officer and his wife were discovered in a council estate consisting of 310 apartments situated at the Gue de Constantine.

In addition, the security services also announced the arrest of 12 members of armed groups in the provinces of Mila, Algiers, Djelfa, and Boumerdes. In western Algeria, three municipal buildings, one farmer's market, and two parking lots were set on fire in Relizane and Sidi Bel Abbes.

'Terrorists' Kill 5 Citizens

LD0303202394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Five citizens, including two war veterans, have been assassinated by terrorists, and an elementary school and a cultural center set on fire.

The war veterans are Azizi Ammar and Zourmane Ahmed, each aged 73 years, who were assassinated in Blida Province. In the same province, in Souma, the body of 28-year-old Sellami Younis, who was kidnapped by unknown persons in Boufarik, was found. The security services said that Mansouri Ammar, a farmer and father of a gendarme, was assassinated by terrorists in Souk Dahra in Chlef. The same day, Tissemsilt Province also witnessed the assassination of the father of a gendarme in Lazharia by a terrorist group who had earlier set fire to an elementary school. The security services added that a cultural center at Oued Jer, Blida Province, was set alight.

In another development, the security services today confirmed last Tuesday's attempt on the life of Mouloud Zatar, a reporter for in Tiaret. The news was reported in today's ALGER REPUBLICAIN. The paper pointed out that Zatar's condition was not critical though he was shot with five bullets.

FIS Leader's Uncle Said Killed in Army Reprisal

PM0403110794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Mar 94 p 4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "Salvation Front: Rabeh Kebir's Uncle Was Killed at a Security Roadblock"]

[Excerpt] Jeddah, Algiers, AFP, REUTER—Sources close to the Islamic Salvation Front have said that uncle of Cheikh Rabeh Kebir, chairman of the Front's Executive Committee abroad, was killed last Monday morning "because of his identity" at a security roadblock in the al-Qall [as transliterated] area in east Algeria.

The sources revealed new details about the fighting that took place Monday morning in the al-Qall area near the village of Kanoua'. An eyewitness who smuggled his report out of the country says that before dawn on Monday a military group entered the al-Tars [as transliterated] area near al-Qall and set up a roadblock, halting the traffic. Cheikh 'Ali Kebir (60) happened to by passing by with two other people in a truck driven by him.

The military group, the sources said, continued to move into the area, and at about 1030 hrs it was ambushed in an area called Mahafir al-Baghlah [as transliterated]. The ambush had been set up by gunmen belonging to the Armed Islamic Movement.

The sources added that the gunmen attacked the group with their automatic weapons, and that the elements manning the roadblock knew about the incidents, so they killed Kebir and his two companions.

Armed Islamist sources put the number of dead among the security forces at 500 [as published], among them three officers holding the rank of first lieutenant.

Furthermore, Front sources say that 'Ayn al-Na'jah military hospital in the capital is overstreched during the month of Ramadan, noting that the focus is on liquidating those collaborating with the authorities, who are described as informers by a report on military operations. [passage omitted]

HAMAS Leader on Current Conflict, Zeroual's Role

PM0303131994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Mar 94 p 4

[Interview with Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Algerian Islamic Society Movement (HAMAS), by 'Abdallah al-Hajj in Jeddah; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Hajj] It seems that the confrontation between the regime and the Islamists is escalating, despite Zeroual's appointment as president. What are the direct reasons for the escalation?

[Nahnah] We expected an escalation of violence because political rivalry is not based on rules that guarantee power rotation or participation in power so as to safeguard security and property and prevent bloodshed. The swelling of the tide of violence remains natural as long as some people are pursuing the policy of breaking bones and destroying the country, its present and future, even at the expense of values, virtues, and achievements. [passage omitted]

Liamine Zeroual's arrival is another experience to be added to the other experiences. However, what attracts attention is the fact that the man has the presidential and defense powers and does not need to hesitate as much as those before him did. This is why we saw him move toward dialogue and toward expanding it and securing mechanisms and a date for it—which is indeed a glimmer of hope. But the armed party—so it seems—felt that the rug had been pulled from under its feet, so it decided to increase the tide of violence so as to attract attention to the claim that it is the party concerned with the dialogue of negotiation, not anyone else. Especially as the Islamic Salvation Front realized that the policy of confrontation would lead to the required outcome, so it displayed a degree of reason, which armed parties tend to ignore. These parties tend to threaten or criticize anyone who insists on adopting reason, which most regrettably came after the devastation of the country. Had the conflicting parties accepted dialogue from the first day, we would not have reached the verge of this painful devastation. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hajj] Hocine Ait-Ahmed, leader of the Socialist Forces Front, has said that a civil war will break out in Algeria and that the more extremist will win it. What is your opinion?

[Nahnah] Numerous hands are involved in the Algerian situation, because of the explosive issues which have found a good climate for explosion in the critical situation. Even before this crisis erupted, our movement warned about the serious situations which could develop in Algeria along the lines of what is happening in Lebanon, Afghanistan, or Somalia. Especially since some people are working to kindle the political, religious, and frontal sedition in Algeria. Anyone who says that the most extremist will win is actually openly calling for more extremism, which damages the image of Islam and political Islamist movements. Muslims rushed into many battles, but the sly reaped the fruits. The policy of decay pursued by the Algerian and foreign octopuses serves only the idea of settling scores at the expense of the nation and its constants. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hajj] Preacher Cheikh Mohamed Bouslimani was assassinated recently. Do you believe that this will lead to inter-Islamic confrontations inside Algeria?

[Nahnah] Martyr Cheikh Mohamed Bouslimani, may God have mercy on him, was a man of knowledge, call [al-da'wah], and reform for 30 years. He was killed by the hands of treachery, sin, and recklessness. They have ignorantly assumed the task of shedding innocent blood directly or indirectly in order to exploit the critical situation. We cannot say that this action is the result of the understanding of Islam. Not at all. The Islamic banner is exploited to achieve cheap and base objectives, namely to spread terror, plant despair, expand the circle of frustration among citizens, and push the Algerians toward infighting and sever their necks and ruin their homes with their own hands. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hajj] Do you believe that President Zeroual is the man of the hour in Algeria? And how can he succeed in salvaging the country?

[Nahnah] The country's success and extrication from the crisis cannot be achieved by putting diluted ointments on malignant tumors, but by abandoning deception, falsification, and the policy of playing for time, and turning to the people, respecting their will, and opening channels to express their ideas and proposals without any compulsion, domination, subservience, arrogance, or marginalization.

I welcome Liamine Zeroual's endeavor to ease the crisis by expanding the dialogue, alleviating the citizens' suffering, hastening to hold elections, and not taking any notice of the voices of the crows of socialism, secularism, and ignorance, who are the cause of the calamity and the bankruptcy. They promote French influence and Marxism. And I urge President Zeroual to shorten the transitional phase as much as possible. And if necessary, he should at least be a fair tyrant in this period.

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Phone Call From Israel's Rabin

NC0403131794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at noon today. The conversation dealt with the measures that must be taken by Israel to meet the Palestinians' demands in the occupied territories and to provide protection and security for them.

Islamic Group Claims 3 Attacks To Avenge Hebron

NC0403094494 Paris AFP in English 0905 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, March 4 (AFP)—Egypt's outlawed Islamic Group said Friday it had carried out three attacks in the past week to avenge the Hebron massacre of more than 50 Muslim worshipers by a Jewish settler.

The Islamic Group, known in Arabic as al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, claimed responsibility for two attacks on banks and the murder of a police officer, according to a statement sent to AFP.

"These operations are part of the escalation we decided on to avenge the martyrs of Abraham Mosque" in

Hebron, the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where a Jewish settler shot dead 52 Palestinian worshippers last Friday, it said.

The statement claimed responsibility for the late Thursday explosion at the Egyptian-American Bank in Cairo, as well as an attack on Tuesday against Misr Bank in Abu Tij and the killing of a police officer in Badari.

Both Abu Tij and Badari are in the southern region of Asyut, a Muslim militant stronghold.

The group said it carried out the attacks after the banks closed "in order not to endanger human lives."

It renewed its February 8 call to tourists and foreign investors to leave Egypt and to Egyptian bank customers to close their accounts. "If these (attacks) are not enough for you, there will be others," it said.

Since the warning there have been six attacks against banks—five in Cairo and one in Asyut—but there have been no casualties.

Parties Condemn Hebron Incident, Issue Statements

Opposition Parties 'Strongly' Condemn

NC0303220994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA)—The opposition parties have strongly condemned the ugly crime the Israelis committed in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque on Friday last week in which scores of innocent Palestinians were martyred.

The statement, which was issued by the parties today during a news conference held at the headquarters of the Liberal Party, asked that the world conscience be addressed by sending cables of protest to the member countries of the Security Council to impose economic sanctions on Israel and force it to respect the Palestinians.

The statement asked the Islamic Conference Organization to convene an urgent conference in holy Mecca to discuss what the Muslims are being subjected to in Palestine and all other places, especially Bosnia-Herzegovina, and make practical decisions to protect the holy Muslim shrines, especially inside the al-Aqsa Mosque.

NADP Condemns Massacre

NC0203213594 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Feb 94 p 4

["Text" of statement by the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party]

[Text] The Nasirite Arab Democratic Party [NADP] strongly condemns the barbaric massacres and bestial actions perpetrated by the Zionist gangs against our Arab people in Palestine. These vile crimes eloquently demonstrate the extremely racist nature of the Zionist enemy, which is hostile to all that is humanitarian and good in this world, while it brags about peaceful solutions.

The Hebron massacre and the bloody confrontations that followed it in the occupied territories reaffirm our party's unwavering stand on the illusion of peace with the usurping enemy. They also represent further evidence of the principles that what has been taken by force can only be retrieved by force and that there is no final solution to the Palestinian issue other than the liberation of all its territories from Zionist desecration. Our party stresses that Zionists' ruses will not deceive the Arab people. There is nothing that can make us differentiate between the Zionist settlers' actions and the practices of the occupation gangs. All of them were involved in shedding Arab blood during the month of Ramadan in the Ibrahimi Mosque and in the steadfast towns of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It is logical for Rabin to attempt to depict the bloody massacre as an action of an irresponsible individual and to ask the Palestinians to exercise self-restraint and not stage provocative acts against him?! However, it is shameful for the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to issue a statement describing the bloody massacre as part of the extremist acts that are engulfing the world, as if it is the government's duty to look for excuses and justifications that absolve the Zionist gangs from the martyrs' blood. Still worse is the Egyptian Government's determination to continue to deceive the Arabs and tame them so as to accept the humiliating capitulation to the Zionist enemy.

These regrettable incidents have proved the weakness and naivete of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which places the Palestinian people firmly in the Zionist enemy's palm. They have destroyed for good all the illusions that have been propagated about living under the Zionist spears and among tense and racist settlements. It is a glaring idiocy for some Arab rulers to call on the Zionist enemy to protect the Palestinians in the occupied territories when the occupation forces protected the killers while they broke into the Ibrahimi Mosque and are still firing the bullets of treachery at the Arab demonstrators in every Palestinian village and town.

The time has come for the Arab rulers to wake up from their slumber, stop squandering the rights of the Arab people in Palestine, shake off their submissiveness to U.S.-Zionist orders, and voluntarily abandon—before being forced to do so—the suspicious propagation of plans of capitulating to Zionist ambitions.

Our party calls on the Arab masses to declare their anger, profess their solidarity with our kinsmen in the occupied territories through all available means, and fully condemn attempts to impose capitulation to Zionist ambitions. We call on the Arab masses to boycott all forms of normalization with the Zionist enemy. The NADP declares its full support for the Arab people's intifadah in

Palestine, which is one of the noblest expressions of Arab rejection in an age of government subservience to Zionist arrogance.

Wafd Party Issues Statement

NC0203161194 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Feb 94 p 1

[Statement issued by the Wafd Party on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre—date not given]

[Text] Muslim society and the international community in general are heartbroken at the report of the massacre perpetrated by a fanatical Zionist inside the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in which dozens of Palestinians were martyred and hundreds others were injured, unarmed victims who were praying to God from their hearts during the dawn prayers.

This massacre is to be added to the crimes that the Palestinian people have been subjected to since the Dayr Yasin massacre, which was perpetrated by criminal thugs whose objective was to uproot the Palestinian people from their lands and possessions and to give these lands and possessions to tyrants and despots. And these despots went ahead with the judaization of the Palestinian land in accordance with a vile scheme that resulted in covering the Palestinian territories with settlements and colonies that are like a spearhead in the Arab nation's body.

The al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre constitutes a crime against all humanity. It is the black fruit of the tendencies of hatred and bigotry that Zionism is planting in the hearts of its followers, thus prompting them to kill and practice violence and urging them to annihilate the Arabs so that the land will be theirs alone and Israel's area can expand to include the entire Middle East, with sovereignty over and control of all the peoples of the region.

The treacherous bullets that assassinated the worshippers in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque wounded the hearts of the Arabs, Muslims and supporters of right and justice everywhere. These bullets have undermined the peace hopes of everyone. Israel's rulers are secretly hatching plots while talking publicly about peace. They are the ones who gave the terrorrist an opportunity to attack the worshippers and it is they who cover up for the criminals after each massacre.

The Wafd Party, which firmly believes that justice must win and injustice is bound to be vanquished sooner or later, believes that this ugly crime must open the eyes of the Arab rulers to the extent of the Israeli danger. The Arab rulers must rise above differences, conflicts, and hatreds and stand united against the schemes being hatched against us so as to turn us into lackies of the Israeli state under the slogan of the Middle East policy. The Arab peoples should be aware of the danger coming from Israel and those who stand behind Israel. The Wafd Party, while feeling the enormity of the catastrophe inflicted on the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, is confident that this catastrophe will make this heroic people more determined, stronger, and more steadfast. The martyrs who were slain by the bullets of treachery are in an Assembly of Truth, in the Presence of a Sovereign Omnipotent, in the company of prophets (who teach), the sincere (lovers of truth), the witnesses (who testify), and the righteous (who do good): Ah! what a beautiful fellowship. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] Muhammad Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din
Wafd Party leader.

Israeli Embassy, Cairo Airport Increase Security

NC0203195094 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 27 Feb 94 p 1

[Kamal 'Imran and Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah report]

[Text] The Interior Ministry's security forces have imposed strict security measures around the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, the Academic Center, and the Jewish cemetery in the city center. Security sources said that these measures were taken as a precaution against reactions to the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron.

The security sources also imposed strict security measures around the houses of the Israeli diplomatic mission members and put up barricades on all the roads leading to the embassy. Passersby were subjected to exhaustive searches.

AL-WAFD learned that Israeli Ambassador David Sultan has issued instructions to the Jewish and diplomatic community in Cairo advising them to be cautious in their movements.

A responsible source at the Interior Minister asserted that these are precautionary measures to prevent acts of revenge.

A state of alert was also announced at Cairo International Airport yesterday for fear of violent acts against Israeli delegations coming to or leaving Cairo. The airport authorities imposed strict security measures inside the passenger lounges and on the Israeli airline EL AL flights and with luggage checks.

Groups Demonstrate To Protest Hebron Incident

'Huge' Peaceful March Staged

NC0203210594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 Mar (MENA)—A huge peaceful march was staged in Cairo this evening by thousands of youths and women. The participants condemned the Israeli actions in the occupied territories and the bestial massacre of innocent Palestinians in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. Thousands of worshippers came out of the 'Amr-Ibn-al-'Ass Mosque after evening prayers and joined the march, which proceeded to the al-Rawdah and al-Manyal areas chanting slogans and carrying placards condemning that abominable crime. Police vehicles escorted the peaceful march to protect it.

Tear Gas Used to Disperse Students

NC0303150194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1443 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA)—Hundreds of university students assembled in al-Tahrir Square this afternoon carrying placards condemning the ugly massacre inside the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron last Friday [25 February].

The students denounced this painful incident and demanded a halt to the peace negotiations with Israel.

After one hour of slogan shouting, when the square became overcrowded with other citizens, the police dispersed the demonstrators in order to prevent other elements infiltrating them and to keep traffic moving as it had begun to be disrupted. The police used tear gas and some warning shots to disperse the demonstrators.

Police Arrest Student Anti-Israeli Demonstrators

NC0203193094 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Feb 94 p 1

[Text] The security forces yesterday evening arrested six students from among hundreds of students who marched from Cairo University, crossed the University overpass to al-Qasr al-'Ayni Street and proceeded to the People's Assembly building to demand the abrogation of the peace treaty with Israel. The security forces intercepted the demonstration in front of the ROSE AL-YUSUF building and succeeded in dispersing it. These forces imposed strict security measures around the People's Assembly and the adjacent ministries for fear of a resumption of the demonstrations.

The Central Security Forces surrounded Cairo University and engaged in violent clashes with the students inside the campus and fired tear gas grenades and rubber bullets, injuring a large number of students. Among those injured were Hasan 'Abd-al-Samad 'Asakir, a student at the law college; Sami Muhammad Zaydan, a student at the arts college; Mu'tazz Mahmud, a student at the law college, who was hit by three bullets in his left foot; and Sami Ahmad Fadil, whose left leg was hit by rubber bullets. A number of injured students were taken to the al-Qasr al-'Ayni Hospital. In the meantime, thousands of students continue to stage demonstrations in the universities of 'Ayn Shams, al-Azhar, and Alexandria. Nasirist and Islamic students joined in leading the demonstrations. The students carried placards condemning the Arab rulers' defeatist stances and calling for an immediate halt to the peace negotiations and the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador in Cairo.

Dailies Discuss Hebron Massacre, Israeli Measures

NC0403111094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—Today's Cairo newspapers continue to comment on the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron, which killed 90 and wounded 300.

AL-JUMHURIYAH advises the Arab negotiator to rearrange his cards, priorities, and stances, noting that there is no time for sorrow or he will lose his mind.

The paper adds that the Palestinian negotiator must benefit from conditions around him and from the repercussions of events in the occupied territories, where the Palestinian people are enduring a great historic ordeal.

The paper writes that the massacre proved to the world that the Israeli expansionist settlements constitute a security threat to the Palestinian people, a threat that should be eliminated. The massacre also showed the world that the continuing Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories will mean unceasing massacres day and night, since confrontations between the Israeli army and the unarmed people do not stop.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that the world has discovered that peace is indivisible; it either involves all the parties or none. The world has also discovered that negotiations will remain the only approach to a balanced peace.

AL-AKHBAR regrets that the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre finds someone at the UN Security Council to protect the culprits and try to obstruct any resolution that condemns Israel and demands serious protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories to avoid a recurrence of the barbaric massacre.

The paper is surprised that the world, which condemned the massacre, is turning a blind eye to the massacres occurring daily in the West Bank and Gaza for years. It notes that Israel has given its soldiers the freedom to practice the hobby of hunting children and women with their automatic rifles. It wonders about the difference between the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and the massacres that have continued since the intifadah started in the occupied territories. True, the Hebron massacre was committed by a deranged Israeli officer, as they say, and finished off by the Israeli army to avert any Palestinian reaction. But the unceasing daily massacres against the Palestinian people lead to the same result of shedding and depleting Arab blood, the paper says.

AL-AKHBAR adds: If the members of the Israeli Government are truly sincere in their sorrow over the victims of the massacre, they would have prevented their soldiers from committing daily massacres in the occupied territories.

AL-AHRAM contends that the limited, cosmetic measures taken by Israel will not absorb the Arab, Islamic, and world rage over the horrific massacre that occurred in the Ibrahimi Mosque at dawn last Friday.

The paper believes that the world needs to know whether Israel really wants peace with the Arabs and Palestinians or merely wants to wear the mask of peace and pursue the policy of hegemony behind it.

AL-AHRAM says the logic of peace is clear and its course is straightforward. This makes it incumbent on Israel to adopt actual measures, pledge to disarm settlers, ban the activity of extremist Jewish organizations, and dismantle the Qiryat Arba' settlement, from which the Jewish butcher who committed the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre came, it stresses.

The paper concludes by saying that real peace begins by truly believing in a mutual and equal security, not by believing in one side's security at the expense of the others' lives.

Leader of Group Placing Bombs Near Banks Caught

NC0303073094 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by Muhammad Salah al-Zahhar]

[Text] The security agencies have gathered important information in their search for the organization responsible for detonating explosive devices in front of banks. The security agencies have identified a large number of persons suspected of having carried out these operations and have arrested a number of them.

The leader of this organization has been identified and arrested in one of the governorates. He was found in possession of a large quantity of explosives and ammunition and a new plan for detonating devices with a timer that was used for the first time in the devices that exploded in al-Jizah last week. The arrested defendants gave detailed confession about their terrorist plan, which sought to create panic and instability in the Egyptian streets.

Bomb Explodes Outside Egyptian-American Bank

NC0303182394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA)—A small explosive device went off at around 1820 [1620 GMT] this evening at the bottom of the stairs leading to the Egyptian-American Bank on al-Batal Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Street in al-Muhandisin district [of Cairo].

The explosion caused minor damage to some windows and the entrance stairs. No one was injured.

Security men from the al-Jizah Security Department and forensic experts went to the scene of the crime to collect evidence at the site and the prosecution office has started investigations.

Organizations Accused of Forming Antiregime Plots

Damietta Mayor Charged

NC0203200694 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Feb 94 p 14

[Report by 'Ali Dawud from Damietta]

[Excerpt] Mustafah al-Badawayhi, head of the Damietta prosecution office, has ordered that the mayor of Damietta, a member of the city council, and 15 other extremists be put in prison for 15 days pending investigations. They were charged with forming a secret organization with the objective of toppling the government by using the position of the mayor supported by a number of other members of the council who belong to the Labor Party to conduct secret activities and to use the summer resort of Ra's al-Barr, which is now empty, for their organization's training, lectures, and other instruction.

The security men noticed some suspect activities by some youths known for their extremist tendencies. By observing them, it became evident that they were forming a secret organization and that the mayor was abusing his office to support the organization. [passage omitted]

SLP-Affiliated Members Charged

NC0403130394 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Feb 94 p 3

[Report by al-Sa'id al-Shatti from Damietta]

[Text] Security Department interrogations of the members of the terrorist organization led by Dr. 'Ali Hasan al-Day, ophthalmologist and chairman of the Damietta City Council, have revealed the existence of similar groups in many other governorates. These groups rely principally on the members of local councils affiliated with the Socialist Labor Party [SLP]. Some of the suspects have confessed, implicating their colleagues in other governorates.

The security departments will soon announce that they have uncovered new terrorist organizations in several governorates.

Dr. 'Ali al-Day said that as chairman of the City Council, he approved a Ramadan soccer tournament in the Ra's al-Barr sea resort at the request of Mustafa Subayhah, chairman of the City Council's Youth and Sports Committee. He denied that the team members were trained in karate or kung fu.

Investigations have shown that the chairman of the City Council, assisted by several SLP members, exploited the council and his own position to implement suspect plans and disseminate ideas calling for the regime's overthrow.

The suspects are: Dr. 'Ali Hasan al-Day, ophthalmologist and chairman of the City Council; Ashraf Zakariya

'Ubayd, deputy City Council chairman and decorator; Muhammad Muhammad al-Jundi, furniture dealer; Hasan al-Sayyid al-Mursi, optician; 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Nahhas, freelance accountant; Hamdi 'Isa, agronomist; Husayn Husayn 'Ukashah, freelance accountant; al-Sa'id Muhammad Musa, decorator; Ahmad Gharib Abu-Diyal, vocational school student; Karim 'Abduh Shamsu, furniture maker; Jamal 'Abduh Shamsu, furniture maker; 'Adduh 'Ali Abu-Mahdi, carpenter; decorators Khamis Ibrahim and Muhammad Ibrahim; and furniture makers Ashraf Muhammad Basha, 'Abduh Abu-al-'Aynayn, and Mahmud al-Bih.

Mustafa al-Badawayhi, director of Damietta's Prosecution Office, remanded them for 15 days for interrogation on a charge of establishing an organization seeking to overthrow the government.

He also instructed that Damietta Public Attorney Counselor Ahmad al-'Izabi to supervise the arrest of the following eight further suspects: Mustafa Subayhah, City Council member; Wa'il Subayhah, secondary school student; Salamah al-'Iraqi; City Council member and furniture dealer; Salamah al-Bahawan, agronomist and City Council member; Muhammad Isma'il al-Rawdi, employee; Mahmud al-Sha'rawi, furniture maker; Ibrahim Durrah, decorator; and Ahmad Jaddu, decorator.

Terrorist Group Discovered Inside Tanta Prison

NC0203194394 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Feb 94 p 20

[By 'Ali Dawud]

[Excerpt] Damietta—The state security intelligence service in Damietta has uncovered a dangerous terrorist organization inside Tanta Prison led by Mahmud Muhammad Shu'ayb, brother in law of terrorist Karam Zuhdi. Both of them were sentenced for the 1981 events and the assassination of the late President Anwar al-Sadat.

Organization leader Shu'ayb is doing a life sentence in Tanta Prison after being convicted of involvement in the 1981 events and 40 terrorist acts in Asyut. Last March he began to contact a group of his colleagues and other elements from inside the prison in order to form an organization to be tasked with assassinating a number of public figures, with special emphasis on police officers and men. Ramadan Hasan Salih, Muntasir Ahmad Husayn, and Khalid Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Rahman, all of them from Asyut, helped him to set up the organization together with Mahmud Mustafa Hasaballah from al-Buhayrah, who is a doctor at the general hospital in Fuwah.

The intelligence service discovered all the arrangements made by the terrorist organization and monitored the instructions sent from the prison to the various members in a number of governorates. All the arrested defendants were handed over to the public prosecution office for interrogation. [passage omitted]

'Hasty' Trial of Plotters To Assassinate Mubarak

NC0203181394 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by Khalid Salah, 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Abd-al-Mun'im, and Hisham Fu'ad]

[Excerpt] AL-'ARABI has learned that two of those charged with attempting to assassinate President Mubarak by bombing Sidi Barrani airport and the presidential guest house in Marsa Matruh were executed by a firing squad Monday. The families of the two were notified to receive the bodies last Thursday. On 17 February, the military court sentenced to death three people: Midhat al-Tahhawi, Hamadah Lutfi, and Muhammad Ahmad Sa'id Salih (fugitive). The court also sentenced Fathi Muhammad Khattab, Khalid Faraj, and Khalid Rashad to 10 years in prison.

Observers have noted that the indictment and trial were carried out quickly, with the whole case taking no more than one month. It all began when security services, in an inspection campaign in Abu Za'bal in mid-January, accidentally arrested one of the suspects. After that, the military prosecution prepared the indictment and the military court began its hearings on 30 January. Three court sessions were held in 10 days, and families of the suspects were not allowed to contact their sons or appoint lawyers to defend them. The court appointed the defense lawyers.

Najar al-'Arabi, secretary of the Egyptian Human Rights Organization, commented on the military court ruling by saying: The trial was extremely hasty, and the defense could not perform its duty. The new executions only exacerbate the phenomenon of political executions; law organizations have repeatedly called for halting them and for the defendants to be allowed to appear before civilian judges. [passage omitted]

Court Continues To Hear Defense in Sidqi Case

NCd702174894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—The Supreme Military Court today continued to hear the defense plea in the case of the attempt to assassinate Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, which involves 15 defendants, including six being tried in absentia.

The lawyer for the sixth defendant, 'Isam Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman, called for the examination of all the defendants to verify the claim that they were assaulted. He said that he joins the other lawyers in demanding that the court disqualify all the testimonies attributed to the defendants.

Husayn Jabir Muhammad, the defense lawyer for the 11th defendant, Tuhami Ahmad 'Abdallah, called on the court to find his client not guilty for various reasons, including the invalidity of the arrest and search warrant because it was issued two hours after the accused were arrested and the invalidity of the testimonies and admissions attributed to him because they were taken under coercion. [passage omitted]

The court adjourned until tomorrow, when it will continue to hear the defense case.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Comments on Arab League Withdrawal

NC0403092494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Mar (MENA)—Colonel Mu'ammmar al-Qadhdhafi has praised Egypt's and President Husni Mubarak's role in seeking to solve the Libyan-Western dispute, noting that President Mubarak is currently making further efforts to achieve this result. He said Libya appreciates these efforts.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi also praised Egypt's role in confronting the challenges to the Arab world in a serious and responsible manner. He cited Egypt's efforts on behalf of the Palestinian cause as an example.

During a meeting with a delegation of Egyptian journalists who were attending the ceremonies marking the anniversary of the Libyan Jamahiriyah's establishment, al-Qadhdhafi said he maintains constant contact with President Mubarak.

Asked what Libya can offer to solve the Libyan-Western crisis, Col. al-Qadhdhafi said that Libya has nothing new to offer.

Regarding the disappearance of former Libyan Foreign Minister Mansur al-Kikhya, he said that Egypt and Libya are cooperating in an investigation to uncover the facts.

He declared: We are concerned about this issue.

Al-Qadhdhafi described al-Kikhya as "a Libyan citizen concerned with human rights, not an opposition figure."

Al-Qadhdhafi declared that no official Libyan decision has been made to withdraw from the Arab League, explaining that the union secretariat in Libya informed the Arab League of Libya's wish to withdraw in an informal manner. He explained that a draft resolution to withdraw from the League will be submitted to the Libyan basic people's congresses for discussion. He said Libya sees no benefit in staying in the league.

Al-Qadhdhafi called for amending the Arab League Charter to take into account world changes and their implications for the Arabs. He urged the league to develop itself.

Asked why he is not adopting inter-Arab reconciliation as a cause to defend and why he is not backing Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's initiative on this issue, al-Qadhdhafi said he agrees with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's views and supports his efforts on this matter. He called for an Arab summit to revive inter-Arab solidarity.

Regarding his country's conflict with Chad, Col. al-Qadhdhafi said Libya is committed to the decision made by the International Court of Justice [ICJ] on this issue and that this dossier is now decisively closed. He noted, however, that some things needs to be arranged between the two countries so that the ICJ's ruling can be implemented.

Al-Qadhdhafi denounced the Arab world's terrorist movements, saying that they have no connection whatever with Islam and are financed and commanded by people abroad. He said Islam is innocent of these terrorist movements.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi denounced the massacre perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the Ibrahimi Mosque and said that the incident has moved all nations, including the United States.

He accused the Israeli Mosad of the recent bombing of a Coptic [as received] Church in Beirut, which he said was done to cover up the Ibrahimi Mosque's massacre.

Opposition Comments on 1992 Plane Crash

PM0303162194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Mar 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Opposition Once Again Highlights Plane Incident"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The Libyan opposition has once again highlighted the incident of the crash of the Libyan plane which was flying from Benghazi to Tripoli in December 1992.

In a statement issued by Bashir al-Rabiti, head of the Libyan National Organization, the opposition held the Revolutionary Committees responsible for blowing up the plane with a view to killing three people who had important information about the Lockerbie explosion.

The statement quoted "eyewitnesses" as saying that elements from the Revolutionary Committees "arrived one hour before the plane took off from Baninah airport and issued stern orders to airport security officials not to search the elements that had entered the plane with three suitcases [haqa'ib] containing explosives."

The statement added that "the information available indicates that the three targeted people tried first to travel via the seaport of Benghazi but were prevented from doing so, and their movements were put under observation for fear of their releasing information about Lockerbie. Then it was decided to liquidate them."

The statement pointed out that Interior Minister Ibrahim al-Bakkar, who ordered the formation of a committee to investigate the explosion of the plane and begin its work after the Arab interior ministers' conference, met his death [laqiya hatfuh] while on his way back from the conference in Tunis.

JANA Official on UN 'Failure' To Act on Massacre

LD0303231494 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] News reports coming from New York indicate that the Security Council has failed to reach an agreement on issuing a resolution condemning the massacre committed by the Israeli terrorists against those who were praying at the honorable al-Haram al-Ibrahimi [mosque] that led to the fall of scores of victims among the praying Arab Palestinians. The Council had resorted to the adjournment of its session during the past days, at the request of the U.S. representative to the Council.

JANA Arab affairs editor has commented on this saying:

The failure of the so-called Security Council to condemn this savage massacre—which constitutes one of the ugliest and dirtiest crimes of official terrorism—exposes before the entire world the truth of this Council, which is controlled by the Christians and used by the crusader West as a tool to serve its interests and is a sword hanging over the necks of those who reject its blackmailing policies and refuse to give in to its will.

Although a week has elapsed since the savage massacre of al-Haram al-Ibrahimi—and despite the clear evidence of official Israeli responsibility before the world for this terrorist crime that claimed as victims scores of Arab Muslim Palestinians while they prayed inside the Ibrahimi mosque—the so-called Security Council is still postponing its session and is evading anything that will implicate the criminal Israelis, who are still shedding Arab Palestinian blood while the Council is claiming to be discussing the massacre.

The editor added that this exposed attitude by the so-called Security Council is the attitude of the West, which does not want to declare the truth and admit that what the Israelis have done was premeditated, official terrorism and a link within a long chain of Israeli acts of terrorism and thus to convict the Israelis of terrorism.

The editor stressed that this is another scandal of the so-called Security Council—which holds immediate sessions and enthusiastically issues resolutions on sanctions and embargoes when the question is concerning the Arabs, applying the seventh chapter against them even when those resolutions are based on mere suspicion—while witnessing with its own eyes one of the ugliest crimes of terrorism committed by the Israelis, openly and officially and before the entire world. Yet the Council refuses to issue even a denunciation of the criminals. It is a stand that cannot be explained except by the crusader West's indifference towards Arab lives and their blood, as if they were a race other than mankind. It is also an encouragement to the Israeli terrorists to commit more massacres against the Palestinian people. It is another indication regarding the extermination scheme being implemented against the Arabs and the Muslims by the Jewish-Christian alliance.

Opposition 'Lost Contact' with Former Premier

PM0303140194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Mar 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: " 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Bakkush"]

[Text] London, AL-ḤAYAH—Libyan opposition sources have said that they have lost contact with former Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Bakkush for a week.

AL-HAYAH contacted al-Bakkush's family in Cairo. The family said that "he left the Egyptian capital a week ago for a destination which he did not reveal as usual." The family pointed out that "it is not worried about him at all, because he is used to traveling for long periods without revealing his destination."

Mauritania

Tribes Clash Over Municipal Election Results

PM0303151994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Abdallah Oul Mohamedi: "Bloody Tribal Clashes Over Results of Mauritanian Municipal Elections"]

[Text] Nouakchott—One person was killed and a number of others were wounded in bloody clashes between members of two tribes in the town of el 'Ayoun in eastern Mauritania because of a dispute over the results of the municipal elections.

According to travelers from the area, the clashes between the tribes spread throughout the entire town and the neighboring villages, necessitating the intervention of police units in the area to separate the combatants. Army reinforcements were also summoned to the area. Despite the scarcity of reports from the town yesterday morning, informed sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that tribal leaders are threatening to take the battles to other areas.

According to the same sources, the clashes throughout the town broke out after the announcement of the results of the election of the chairman and deputy chairman of the town's Municipal Council. Two tribes competed for control of these posts. They are the Awlad el Nasir tribe, which supports the ruling party, and the el Aghlal tribe, which supports one of the opposition parties. The clashes began as soon as it was announced that the candidates of the ruling party had won.

Some Mauritanian officials accuse the authorities of encouraging tribal rivalry in the area by having the ruling party present a list of candidates controlled by a single tribe. That made the opposition play the same game by putting up a list of rival candidates also from a single tribe. The conflict in the area also assumed a religious dimension when a young man from a family that traditionally inherited religious leadership of the Hamawi sect appeared as a candidate on the opposition's list. According to a Mauritanian reporter who has been watching the situation there, "yesterday's events threaten a relentless war."

Reported Split Within Opposition UFD Party

AB0303181494 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Summary From Poor Reception] "There is a split within the Union for Democracy and Progress [UDP], one of the leading opposition parties in Mauritania." A series of resignations have been noted, which is quite unfortunate. "From Mauritania, Salem Meshbour Salem reports:"

[Begin Salem recording] "The UDP represents the third political force in Mauritania, after Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya's ruling Democratic and Social Republican Party and Ahmed Ould Daddah's Union of Democratic Forces, which is the leading opposition party. The UDP was established in June 1993 by Hamdi Ould Moukniess, a former foreign minister between 1960 to 1978 under the First Republic." At the time he established the party, Moukniess, who was already very famous in his country, was joined by most of the former ministers of Mauritania's first president, Moctar Ould Dada, with the aim of initiating dialogue between the government and the opposition to resolve the serious problems confronting Mauritania. "Among these problems was national unity, since the fabric of the community had been seriously damaged in 1986, 1987, and especially 1989 during the incidents with Senegal. UDP leader Moukniess belongs to the first group of Mauritanian intellectuals, who rejected the falsification of the cultural identity of the various communities which compose the Mauritanian people." For Moukniess, Mauritania belongs to both the Arabo-Berbers and the Negro-Africans, while nationalists believe that Mauritania is simply an Arab country.

"The UDP, which straightaway involved itself in the real problems confronting Mauritania, has just suffered a staggering blow with the resignation of many key personalities from its executive committee. The reason given was differences over political policy. Significant among those who have left are, Mohamed Ali Cherif, former secretary general of the presidency of the Republic under Moctar Ould Dada and chairman of the external relations committee of the party; [name indistinct], chairman of the economic committee; Yarba Ould Tayir, youth and sports officer; and [name indistinct], UDP information officer. The party leadership has not reacted yet to the founding members' resignation. Their departure, of course, weakens the ranks of the Mauritanian opposition." [end recording]

Morocco

King Hassan Views Middle East, EU Issues

LD0303232294 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Speech by King Hassan II on the occasion of Throne Day, the 33d anniversary of Hassan's accession to the throne, in Rabat—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Last year was full of variously important events, diversified according to the time and place where they occurred. Most of these events were important, however, and they affect our history. Assuredly, as days pass, we will adequately appreciate their significance and fully understand their lessons.

In view of the great upheavals witnessed during the last decade, one can say that the post-war era has come to an end and that a new era is on the horizon. In our view, the agreement signed in Washington will be the most important event defining the outlines of the future. What was considered a figment of imagination yesterday—or at best a possibility—is gradually turning into a reality today in front of our eyes. Perhaps the plots and conspiracies will come to an end soon, plots that lasted a whole century and that were concocted against a whole people and—behind them—the whole Arab nation. However, we must not surrender to optimism more than we should, because clouds are still hiding the horizons of the future and because the road is still full of obstacles.

We are satisfied that both parties in the Arab-Israeli negotiations are seriously and truly determined to take the peace process to its conclusion. As far as we are concerned, we have worked for peace for more than 20 years, by calling for it and working to achieve it. This allowed us to talk about the matter all sides with the required frankness.

We told the Israelis that they had to deal with the facts because the first Gaza-Jericho agreement is only a stage. Peace will not become real and lasting unless it is comprehensive and encompasses all the occupied Arab land. As to the Palestinians, we brought to their attention the fundamental change their behavior must undergo because they are no longer merely fighters seeking to liberate their land, but responsible leaders answerable to their people and to the world.

Yes, it is true that their struggle and their many sacrifices brought them affection and support from all parts of the world. This deserves to be praised, especially since their adversary enjoyed the unconditional support of the majority of the great powers. Now they must make use of this affection and support without hesitation and reap the benefits. The Arab-Israeli negotiations are still continuing and are going through difficult times, in which it is difficult to disentangle the intricacies. Nevertheless, it will reach its aim. The whole world wishes for this and works toward it. [passage omitted]

We arrive now at the issues of our relations with our foreign partners and allies. Primary among these problems, naturally, is that of the ties that we are trying to ensure between us and the EEC. The proposals made to us in December 1993 were not to our liking. They did not please us. For this reason, we presented to our partners a document containing our reaction to these proposals, and recalling, in particular, the decision made by the ministerial meeting of the 12 states aimed at concluding a new agreement with Morocco based on four main foundations: political dialogue; economic, technical, and cultural partnership in the sectors of common interest; the gradual establishing of a free trade zone; and financial cooperation. We insisted, in particular, on the need for Moroccan products to enter the EEC market, particularly our agricultural products.

As for the European program, it is, regrettably, characterized by caution and ambiguity. It is contenting itself with maintaining the usual monetary machine. Without clear commitment, it makes promises that there will be a discussion in the future about financial matters. Pending the early implementation of a new agreement—soon, hopefully—Morocco believes that beginning now it has become necessary to reexamine the current agreement so that it may be in accord with the effects of the Uruguay round and the requirements of the European Union market. Morocco also urges its partners to be more understanding and more open and to treat Morocco the way it is treating them.

My dear people: Neither the challenges of the issues we have just raised nor their priority could make us forget the essential issue that comes at the top of our concerns—namely, the issue of our territorial unity. We are, as far as our Sahara is concerned, still committed to organizing a confirmatory, self-determination referendum under UN control that will lead to the final joining together of our southern provinces with the motherland.

Despite the dilatory ambiguities and tricks of our opponents, we are certain that the international community will know how to impose its commitments and implement the various decisions that have been agreed upon to this effect.

We are naturally pleased—while talking about our territorial unity—to raise the thorny issue of Ceuta and Mellila and neighboring islands that are still under Spanish authority. We have been keen so far, in faithfulness to our longstanding traditions, to avoid confrontations that would lead us nowhere and that might only lead to worsening of relations between Spain and Morocco. We have always tried to solve our problems in peaceful ways based on consultation and negotiation—always driven by the firm conviction that the course of time will not affect our rights and that there will be no concessions concerning this part of our land. In an attempt to bring our positions and those of our neighbor closer, we have proposed to our Spanish friends to establish jointly a think tank, which will be in charge of examining a solution that would secure the rights of one side and preserve the interests of the other. It has become impossible to delay the solution indefinitely. Therefore, we hope that our proposal will be well received so that a solution is found for an abnormal situation. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Condemns Hebron Mosque Massacre

LD2602013894 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Text] An official spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation said that the Kingdom of Morocco learned with deep sorrow and grief of the massacre in Hebron of dozens of innocent Palestinians who were performing their religious rites in the venerated month of Ramadan and in a place sacred to the revealed religions.

The official spokesman added that Morocco, as it pays homage to the souls of the martyrs, who were martyrs of blind extremism, strongly condemns this hideous crime which was perpetrated at a time when the international organizations were expecting that peace would soon prevail in the region and were according particular importance to the recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

The spokesman concluded by saying that Morocco, while calling for the perpetrators of this hideous crime to be severely and decisively punished and for the escalation of violence to be halted, considers that such acts must be an incentive to international organizations to make preparations for guaranteeing peace, security, and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

King Sends Condolences to 'Arafat Over Hebron Massacre

LD2602141294 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Voices of condemnation and denunciation of the massacre carried out yesterday by an Israeli terrorist against worshipers inside the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in the occupied West Bank continue to be raised across the world.

His Majesty King Hassan II, may God render him victorious, has sent a cable of condolences to the Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. The cable says:

His Excellency and dear brother Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, head of the fraternal State of Palestine;

We were taken aback by the news of the savage, terrible massacre, whose victims were a large number of our innocent Palestinian brothers in the occupied territories while they were performing the Dawn Prayers in the safe sanctuary of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque and on this Friday of the blessed month of Ramadan at the hands of criminals who were made by virtue of hatred and racism to commit the most ugliest of crimes and take mankind back to the dark ages. We strongly deplore this abominable and terrible massacre and strongly condemn its perpetrators and all those who participated in carrying it out by not taking the necessary precautions to avoid it. We beseech God Almighty to extend His mercy to the righteous martyrs and to grant you and their folks patience and condolences. We also request you to be the best interpreter of our feelings to their families and relatives.

Signed: Your brother Hassan II, King of Morocco.

In the same context the official spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation has stated that the Moroccan Kingdom has learned with deep sorrow the news of the Hebron massacre, which resulted in the death of scores of innocent Palestinians while they were performing their religious duties during the blessed month of Ramadan and at a place which is holy to all heavenly religions. The spokesman added that Morocco, while bowing with respect before the souls of the martyrs—the victims of blind extremism—strongly condemns this abominable crime carried out at a time when the international community was hoping to establish peace soon in the region and was devoting special attention to the recent Palestinian- Israeli agreement. The spokesman concluded by saying that Morocco, while appealing for the severe and resolute punishment of the perpetrators of this abominable crime and for putting an end to the escalation of violence, is of the opinion that such acts should be an incentive for the international community to mobilize to secure peace and security and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

Rabat Offers To Adopt Hebron Massacre Survivors

LD2702111794 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Feb 94

[Communique by the Ministry of Royal Palaces, Protocol, and Decorations; issued in Rabat on 27 February]

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God render him victorious, received Abu-Marwan, ambassador of the State of Palestine in Morocco, at the Royal Palace on Saturday evening. During the audience his majesty expressed again to the ambassador his profound sentiments and condemnation of the terrible massacre which was committed by the criminals at the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque [in Hebron]. He reaffirmed to the ambassador that this massacre, despite its ugliness and severity, will be an incentive for the international community to understand more the sufferings of the Palestinian people, and for the awareness of the international community of the need for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces [from the occupied territories] as soon as possible, as these painful events have shown beyond any shadow of a doubt that the fanatics have no regard for the sanctity of God's houses which are holy places for both Muslims and Jews.

His majesty the king has graciously decided to adopt the families of the martyrs of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque—widows, and orphans—and reaffirmed that the Moroccan Kingdom will undertake to meet the needs of these widows and look after their children and ensure that they will receive their education until they become of age.

In view of the aggravation of these events his majesty the king phoned the Palestinian president [Yasir 'Arafat] to exchange views regarding the steps which ought to be taken to confront these situations and their consequences. He expressed to him the royal will to look after the families of the martyrs—widows and orphans—as a gesture of sympathy toward them and to share their grief.

The ambassador expressed to his majesty the gratitude and thanks of the Palestinian people and officials for the wise counsel which his majesty continues to provide for the Palestinian issue, and for his majesty's continuous attention for Holy Jerusalem and the righteous strugglers. He implored God Almighty to keep His Majesty as a strong support for his homeland and nation. [passage omitted]

Yemen

President Salih Cited on Continuing Crisis

PM0103120394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Feb 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Abdallah Hammudah: "Salih Accuses Socialist Party of Closing Airspace in South"]

[Excerpts] London, Sanaa, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has admitted that he purchased arms for the "Yemeni Army" from the state treasury. He said that the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP) concluded similar deals "whose sources of financing are unknown." He stressed that the YSP has closed the airspace in the southern and eastern governorate to receive arms shipments from Russia and East European states, which include helicopters and various types of [military] equipment.

Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih expressed his confusion between "external orders" and "internal demands" vis-a-vis the efforts being exerted to contain the crisis between the (northern) General People's Congress [GPC], which is led by him—and the YSP, whose secretary general is Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, before the problem worsens and turns once again into an armed confrontation, especially after the failure of the military committee, which is led by Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Salah, deputy chief of staff, to disengage the forces in Abyan Governorate.

This came in the president's meeting with a number of dialogue committee members the day before yesterday evening. The meeting was described by a spokesman for the GPC as "an effort by the dialogue committee to renew its legitimacy after the signing of the Pledge and Accord Document, in order to resume its work to implement the document." [passage omitted]

Salih stressed his commitment to implementing the Pledge Document. He urged the need for the Council of ministers to convene in Sanaa or to authorize the committee dialogue to supervise the work of the government and the military committee.

The Yemeni president said at the meeting that Yemen does not now have military forces—an indication that it is "easy" to implement the security part of the Pledge and Accord Document, thus opening the door to the YSP's return. But some participants told him that these forces have been moved to the fringe areas to reinforce deployment on the partition border—which further worsens the political crisis, instead of making a move to end it and eliminate its effects. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister: Federation Possible Solution

PM2502215594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Feb 94 p6

[Interview with Prime Minister Dr. Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas by unidentified correspondent on in Amman on 22 February]

[Text] [AL-HAYAH] How do you assess the situation, especially after the incidents which followed the signing of the Pledge and Accord Document?

[Al-'Attas] The situation is difficult, particularly as the brothers (in the General People's Congress [GPC]) did not, after the signing of the agreement, agree to discuss subsequent steps to the signing despite the fact that the Socialist Party [YSP] submitted a paper which it hoped would be discussed and signed as an annex to the Pledge and Accord Document. That paper spells out the steps to follow the signing and discusses ways of convening the various bodies in pursuance of the provisions of the document proceeds.

[AL-HAYAH] What about the deteriorating situation at the military level, to be specific?

[Al-'Attas] I believe that what has happened at the military level can be contained. That is what we have stressed to the brothers in Aden, and they are endeavoring to do that despite the provocations and improper activities aimed at dividing the people.

[AL-HAYAH] But do you not believe that the provocations were started by the YSP at some point before the signing of the document when you appointed Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad as governor of Abyan and in doing so flouted the powers of the Presidential Council?

[Al-'Attas] No, giving Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad the duties of the governor of Abyan was a legal step. Furthermore, before he was assigned the duties of governor, the GPC brothers took several inappropriate steps in Abyan. The latest military provocations were only an extension of these steps. At the request of the people of Abyan and in order to calm the situation and reassure the people, I issued that decision which is based on cabinet law no. 20 of 1991 empowering the prime minister to make any decisions he deems fit and then submit them to the cabinet within one month for consideration. And so I indeed did assign the duties of Abyan governor to Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad. The strange truth is that the violations are committed by the other side. All the security directors are appointed by them without any commitment to and completely ignoring the prime minister. The same applies to the heads of directorates and many of the legal changes they carry out without having the right to do so, encroaching on the very essence of the prime minister's powers. I am surprised that they have caused this furor in dealing with a particular problem to block a step which was taken in the public interest and in an attempt to prevent the sedition which some are trying to foment.

[AL-HAYAH] In your view, is the unity [of Yemen] in danger?

[Al-'Attas] I believe that unity is in the hearts of all the good people of Yemen who supported it from the moment it was declared and who, in the years following the declaration of unity, worked in every possible way to build and consolidate the unity state. The fear for unity stems from those who do not want to build the unity state and consolidate it to become an integral part of the daily life of all compatriots and the basis of all central and local practices.

[AL-HAYAH] Have these people, then, managed to undermine unity?

[Al-'Attas] Insistence on their ways, wittingly or unwittingly, is harmful to unity.

[AL-HAYAH] Let us go back to the military situation. You have just received reports about new clashes in Abyan. What is your comment on that?

[Al-'Attas] At this moment, the military situation can be contained but all parties should be willing to do that. I believe that the military provocations in Abyan began several weeks ago when arms were distributed and when the al-'Amaliqah Brigade broke out of the lines within which it was allowed to move according to the specific directives of the Defense Ministry. As a result, it was deployed in positions which had been assigned to the Madram Brigade in Abyan Governorate. That led the people to the conclusion that the provocative actions of the brigade must be stopped. So, we can say that the deployment beyond the designated points was the start of the military provocations and it led to the limited clash which claimed the lives of a number of Yemeni people.

[AL-HAYAH] Let us move to another kind of provocation. Do you not believe that the tours of 'Ali Salim al-Bid and Salim Salih Muhammad are political provocations? They visited some Gulf states without coordination with the rest of the Presidential Council members.

[Al-'Attas] Why? The president ('Ali 'Abdallah Salih) himself used to say that any of the Yemeni leaders should be given the opportunity to make such visits. He hoped to do that himself. I believe that Shaykh 'Abdallah (Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar) made some efforts in that direction but the lack of response was clear a long time ago.

[AL-HAYAH] In view of the recent developments, what do you really want and what can you do?

[Al-'Attas] It is possible to prevent infighting and find peaceful ways out.

[AL-HAYAH] Would federation be a way out?

[Al-'Attas] Federation or other forms which may be better than that. What is important is finding a political way out.

[AL-HAYAH] What do you mean by other forms?

[Al-'Attas] I do not wish to be specific right now.

Prime Minister Cited on Military Situation

PM0303101794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Mar 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Dardiri and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah: "Socialist Party Fears 'Somalization' of Yemen"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa, Aden—The Yemeni situation yesterday became a race between political solutions and military deterioration in the north and the south of the country—which really threatens a "Somalization," as military sources belonging to the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] put it.

The new development at the political level was the announcement that the Council of Ministers will convene in Aden today for five days under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. Meanwhile the military situation continued to deteriorate in Abyan Governorate and in the 'Imran area, north of Sanaa, after 24 hours of cautious calm. The Council of Ministers meetings in Aden will be devoted to examining measures concerning the implementation of the Pledge and Accord Document signed by party leaders in Amman 20 February.

However, a prominent minister belonging to the General People's Congress [GPC], which is led by Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, pointed to the possibility that the GPC ministers will boycott the Council of Ministers meetings in Aden.

Al-'Attas said that the "call for the ministerial meeting in Aden came from the dialogue committee in its meeting on 24 February in Sanaa, specifically from one of its members, namely 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anasi, secretary general of the Yemeni Reform Grouping and deputy prime minister, who headed the committee meeting at the which the call for convening the Council of Ministers in Aden was announced."

The Yemeni prime minister told AL-HAYAH that "the deteriorating conditions require that a schedule be drawn up to prepare the atmosphere and normalize political conditions, ensuring that this program coincides with the implementation of the Pledge and Accord Document and makes it possible to activate the various organizations."

Al-'Attas declined to "talk about the serious military deterioration some governorates are experiencing." He merely pointed out that "it is regrettable, and there is a military committee and a committee for dialogue among the political forces. Its task is to halt military operations, which pose a serious threat to the homeland's unity."

Despite the military quarters' repeated denial that there is any new fighting in Abyan or north of Sanaa, where the 5th Brigade belonging to former Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is stationed, the Defense Ministry in Yemen insisted on confirming the military deterioration.

Aden sources said that the military situation in Abyan Governorate in the south and the area of Harf Sufyan, north of the capital, Sanaa, witnessed a serious development yesterday. And that military officials in the south stress that what is happening is "the start of Somalization, unless a quick solution is found."

The Defense Ministry statement in Aden yesterday pointed out that the "northern al-'Amaliqah Brigade, which is stationed in Abyan, has continued to deploy its personnel and various types of weapons, including rocket launchers and heavy artillery, toward the areas of al-Saylah, al-Bayda', Modiyah, Wadi Dufas, al-Dirjaj, and occupied Jabal Sarar, in addition to its large-scale deployment in Zanjibar, capital of the governorate."

The statement pointed to the existence of "movements and deployments north of Sanaa, as northern troops from Sanaa headed toward the 5th Brigade to help the forces besieging the brigade belonging to 'Ali Nasir Muhammad." The statement confirmed that "the 5th Brigade's commander, Colonel 'Abdallah al-Shalil, managed to withdraw to al-Jawf area with the help of the Bakil tribes." [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-HAYAH Col. al-Shalil, who was contacted from Aden yesterday, said that "the ferocious attacks he experienced were a war of annihilation against the 5th Brigade, which was subjected to a ferocious offensive using various types of weapons from Saturday evening until its withdrawal the day before yesterday." [passage omitted]

Al-Bid Holds Phone Conversation With King Husayn

EA0203165294 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, last night had a telephone conversation with his brother, King al-Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on the intimate fraternal relations between the two fraternal countries and the latest developments in the national arena since the signing of the document of pledge and accord in addition to developments affecting Arab affairs. The brother deputy chairman of the Presidential Council reaffirmed the importance of adhering to the document of pledge and accord and accelerating its implementation. He expressed thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King al-Husayn and to all the brothers in Jordan for their commendable efforts to help our country emerge from its current predicament. He also expressed thanks for efforts made to create conditions conducive to ending the military and security deterioration and for starting to (?implement) the document of pledge and accord.

Salih Receives King Husayn's Adviser al-Karaki

JN2502153694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Text] Lieutenant General brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, yesterday evening received brother Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, His Majesty King Husayn's adviser.

Al-Karaki arrived in Sanaa with a Jordanian military team, led by Major Gen. 'Id Kamil, assistant to the Jordanian Army chief of staff. The Jordanian team will be partly responsible for carrying out the military aspect of the accord document signed in the Jordanian capital. It will also handle part of the the work of the military committee.

Dr. al-Karaki conveyed a message from King Husayn to his brother the chairman of the Presidential Council spelling out his majesty's efforts to bridge viewpoints and implement the accord document. The message reiterated Jordan's keenness to see the accord document translated on the ground as an achievement that concerns the Arab nation as well as the Yemeni people. It indicated that it is the duty of all Arabs to rally to Yemen's unity as a pan-Arab project embodying the aspirations of Arab unionists and holding out the hope that the dawn of Arab unity has arrived.

President Salih and Dr. al-Karaki reviewed Yemeni developments against the backdrop of the accord document. The president told him he and the Yemeni people were appreciative of His Majesty King Husayn's and the Jordanian people's pan-Arab attitude and genuine concern for unity and democracy in our country. The President said he appreciated that Jordan was doing all it could to help Yemen ride out the tough challenges left by the political crisis. President Salih noted that these efforts were crowned by Amman hosting the gathering of Yemeni political and social figures to witness the ceremonies for signing the accord document. Our people, the president told Dr. al-Karaki, will always recognize Jordan's brotherly stands that dramatize the profundity of ties between the two brother peoples.

The president asked him to convey his greetings to his brother His Majesty King Husayn and best wishes for the brotherly Jordanian people. The meeting was attended by brother 'Ali Muhammad al-Anisi, the head of the Presidential Office; Maj. Gen. 'Id Kamil, assistant to the Jordanian Army chief of staff; and Fayiz al-Rubayyi', the Jordanian ambassador to our country.

Al-Bid Receives al-Karaki

JN2602064394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, received in Aden today brother Dr.

Khalid al- Karaki, adviser to His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. Dr. al-Karaki conveyed a message to the vice chairman of the Presidential Council from his brother King Husayn on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Al-Bid Meets With Military, Security Commanders

JN0303202994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, met this afternoon with the brother commanders of the military units and security agencies and the commanders of military police in the commercial and economic capital, Aden.

He made a speech in which he expressed eagerness to meet with them 11 days after the accord document was finally signed. He expressed thanks and appreciation for the efforts made by the Jordanian and Omani brothers, the Arab League secretary general, and all the friends in the European Community and the United States for helping our country to overcome the challenges that faced the march of unity and democracy and the building of a modern Yemeni state.

The vice chairman of the Presidential Council asserted that by signing the document, the Yemeni people have proven they can rely on dialogue and reason. He urged all sincere members of the dialogue committee, as well as those not on the committee, to adhere to the accord document and work toward implementing it.

Masdus Discounts Government Report on Abyan

EA2602115394 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Text] Brother Brigadier Muhammad Haydarah Masdus, deputy prime minister and member of the political bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party, has categorically denied the statement of the General Committee of the General People's Congress, saying that it was incorrect in its substance and detail and devoid of truth. In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', brother Brig. Muhammad Haydarah Masdus described the General Committee's statement as sheer fabrication and aiming to obstruct the great efforts being made to preserve the national unity of Yemen's sons and to preserve it from all forms of violence and terrorism. The brother deputy prime minister called on the brothers of the permanent committee to attest to the truth of even one of their assertions. He appealed to brothers Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council; Mr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council; Haydar Abu-Bakr al-Attas, chairman of the Council of Ministers; and the brother chairman of the Security and Military Committee urgently to form an investigation committee to expose the individuals who are distributing arms and forming assassination squads in Abyan Governorate, as well as those who are financing them.

Brother Brig. Muhammad Haydarah Masdus stressed that he had frequently spoken and continued to speak against the distribution of arms and the deployment of military forces in Abyan Governorate. This is what he told the military committee chaired by Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Salah, the deputy chief of staff, in the presence of the U.S. military attache.

Reform Grouping Condemns 'Regrettable Incidents'

JN2502194694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Feb 94

["Text" of statement issued by the higher council of the Yemeni Reform Grouping; date not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, who said: And fear tumult or oppression, which affecteth not in particular only those of you who do wrong. [koranic verse] Prayers and peace be upon our master Muhammad and all his kin and companions. In these blessed days all our people from al-Maharah to Sa'dah are hoping for an end to the crisis that has affected every aspect of our lives and aggravated our people's pain and suffering. Our people have been waiting for their political leaders to return to attend to their duties and for state agencies to fulfill their Constitutional tasks and carry out the accord document after it was signed in Amman on 10 Ramadan [20 February].

Thus, our patient people are surprised by the military movements and the incidents that have sparked off the crisis anew and threatened the unity, security, and stability of the homeland. These incidents were orchestrated as a device to weasel out of the responsibility for implementing the provisions of the accord document and then to drift to only God knows what fate.

The higher council of the Yemeni Reform Grouping has been following these developments and the irresponsible media hype about them. It contacted official circles with the aim of bringing the situation under control and keeping irresponsible actions from getting out of hand. The higher council condemns these regrettable incidents that can only harm the homeland and the citizens and play into the hands of the haters of the homeland's unity, security, and stability. It calls on all the parties to be equal to their religious, national, and historic responsibilities and work toward bringing these incidents to an end and ensuring that they do not recur. The council calls for the relocation of all military units to their positions and for the Armed Forces to be kept out of political and party disputes. This is in order for them to remain a source of strength for the homeland and a shield for the country's sovereignty and independence and the community's security and welfare and to be kept unaffected by political considerations and narrow party interests.

The council calls on all political forces and the citizens from all walks of life to exercise vigilance and not allow themselves to be drawn into any actions that may hurt the homeland or its unity. It also calls for forestalling the advocates of sedition who do not care for the well-being of the Yemeni people and are used to living in a climate of bloody conflict and deception and breaking promises and breaching charters.

The higher council calls on the competent authorities to speed up the enquiry into the incidents and name those who were responsible and disclose facts to the people lest they remain at the mercy of internal and external misinformation. We pray that God keep our country and people and spare us all [word indistinct] and lead us all to all that is good and our leaders to the right ways.

YRG Denies Complicity in Abyan Incidents

JN2702163994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Feb 94

[Text] Sanaa, 27 Feb (INA)- A source at the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], one of the three ruling coalition parties in Yemen, has denied reports of its complicity in military incidents that occurred in the Yemeni Governorate of Abyan last Monday.

In a statement to the press in Sanaa last night, the source asserted that the YRG has never been a party in any bloody military dispute among the sons of Yemen.

Press reports had accused the grouping of sending armed men to escalate the military incidents against the Yemeni Socialist Party's supporters in the Abyan Governorate.

Background to Abyan Fighting, Developments Reviewed

PM0103115794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Feb 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "New Governor Requests Withdrawal of All Forces; al-'Amaliqah Attempt Eradicates Fundamentalists From al-Maraqishah"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Political sources in Aden have said that the bloody incidents sparked off by the (northern) al-'Amaliqah Brigade in Abyan Governorate four days ago were aimed at preventing Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad, one of former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's men, from assuming his duties in implementation of the decision issued by Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas.

The sources pointed out that al-'Amaliqah's attempt received the support of Jihad elements and the fundamentalist militias to besiege the battalions of the southern al-Wahdah Brigade and clash with the Madram Brigade (partisan militias), but it failed to achieve its aims. In fact it enabled the Socialist Party to correct a mistake which had existed since January 1986, namely reinforcing its military presence in Abyan and destroying fundamentalist infiltration, which took place after the establishment of unity.

Southern forces succeeded in storming the Afghan Arabs' centers in the al-Maraqishah mountains. High-level political sources arriving in Aden from Abyan the day before yesterday said that 90 Afghan Arabs from the Jihad organizations have been arrested and 30 killed. And that the others are being pursued in the northern Abyan heights toward the northern governorate of al-Bayda'.

The source accused northern army commanders of supporting the Afghan Arabs, who were stationed in Abyan, and of supplying them with food and military equipment. The sources said that these did not exist before unity and they began to arrive in Shabwah, Hadhramout, and Abyan after unity. [passage omitted]

North Claims South Preparing Major Offensive

NC2602190294 Paris AFP in English 1742 GMT 26 Feb 94

[Text] Sanaa, Feb 26 (AFP)—Southern troops are preparing for a major offensive to capture the strategic town of Qa'tabah, a spokesman of the northern General People's Congress (GPC) Party charged Saturday.

"The YSP (Yemen Socialist Party) has massed troops and heavy weapons near the former border," which used to divide the former North and South Yemen republics before they united in May 1990, the spokesman told AFP.

"Their forces are getting ready to capture the strategic town of Qa'tabah, whose occupation would allow them to enter Ibb," a city deeper inside the northern region, he charged.

The YSP "seeks to trigger a full-blown war," he charged.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's GPC—which ruled the former North Yemen—and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid's YSP—which ruled the South—decided to share power upon unification, but they have not merged armies.

The GPC spokesman accused the YSP of sending several tanks, 37 Russian-made armoured vehicles and nearly thirty 36 millimeter (1.44 inch) guns to 'Awabil, Shi'b al-Khanaq and Jahaf provinces, adjoining the former border.

The southern party on Friday distributed 3,000 light weapons to its militiamen in these provinces, he added.

The YSP has also bought from Bulgaria several fighter aircraft that landed in the past few days in the southern airports of Aden, capital of the former South Yemen, and al-Rayan, he said.

Tens of tons of military uniforms, tents and blankets were unloaded lately in the airport of Hadhramaut Province, 500 kilometers (300 miles) north east of Aden, he said.

Salih and al-Bid have been locked in a political showdown since August, when al-Bid refused to take up his duties as vice president in the capital Sanaa, in the north, demanding major economic, political and security reforms.

A reconciliation agreement signed on February 20 by Salih and al- Bid in Amman has failed so far to end the crisis as nearly 20 soldiers have been killed in clashes between rival army units since then.

Yemeni Minister of Defense Haytham Qasim al-Tahir, a southerner, on Friday said the military commission in charge of implementing the security measures agreed upon in Amman has failed to stop escalation.

Northern Units Reportedly Deployed Against South

PM0303115994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Lutfi Shatarah in London and unattributed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT report from Sanaa: "People of al-Dali' Besiege Northern Brigade in Yemen"]

[Text] Yemeni military sources have confirmed that forces of the (northern) 2d Armored Brigade stationed at al-Kabsi camp in al-Rahah area near Radfan (about 160 km north of Aden) yesterday came out of their barracks and spread out in nearby villages and valleys with the aim of besieging the southern town of al-Dali'.

At the same time the northern al-'Amaliqah Brigade in the southern governorate of Abyan yesterday also continued to deploy heavily in the town of Zinjibar after storming and seizing the security command headquarters in the governorate.

That northern military move came less than one hour after President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who is also the secretary general of the General People's Congress [GPC], and his Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who is the secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], signed an authorization giving the Joint Military Committee full powers to put an end to the military clashes between northern and southern forces.

Political sources have stressed that the crisis of trust which has now spread from the political to the military sector might hamper the implementation of any agreement. According to military sources in Aden, the people of al-Dali yesterdar came out to confront the forces of the (northern) 2d Armored Brigade to prevent them from moving their armor and to force them to return to the positions they held before.

Military reports also said yesterday that the al-'Amaliqah Brigade was still refusing to obey any orders to return to its barracks on the outskirts of the southern town of Zinjibar.

The sources said that the 5th Light Infantry Brigade loyal to former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad was totally destroyed and that the real number of victims of the heavy bombardment of that brigade by the 1st Armored Division commanded by Colonel 'Ali Muhsin al-Ahmar was still unknown.

The sources added: "The crime was not just what happened to the soldiers loyal to former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad near Sanaa, but also the fact that those who did it are denying that there was such a barracks in that area. That is what they said to the military team which visited Harf Sufyan north of 'Umran."

Northern Troops Kill 12 Southerners in Attack

NC2702120794 Paris AFP in English 1147 GMT 27 Feb 94

[Text] Aden, Yemen, Feb 27 (AFP)—Northern Yemeni troops attacked a southern brigade with heavy artillery, killing 12 and wounding at least 30, a Defence Ministry spokesman said here Sunday.

The report was denied by a spokesman for President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's General People's Congress (GPC) in Sanaa, the northern capital.

The spokesman for the Defence Ministry, which is controlled by Salih's southern rival, Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, said units of the northern first mechanised division attacked a base of the southern Fifth Infantry Brigade at Harf Sufyan, north of Sanaa, late Saturday.

"Twelve members of the (southern) brigade were killed and about 30 others wounded," the spokesman said, adding that the northern troops prevented the wounded from being evacuated. The base was still ringed by northern troops Sunday.

A spokesman for al-Bid's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) confirmed that the attack took place.

Military mediators from Jordan and Oman drew up a five-point plan on Sunday to halt clashes between northern and southern army units in which at least 20 people were killed last week.

Officials in Sanaa said the mediators called on the opposing sides to ban new troop movements, return to their positions before the clashes, free prisoners and return the weapons seized, dismantle checkpoints and halt the media campaign against each other.

The GPC, which ruled the former North Yemen, and the YSP, which ruled the south, decided to share power when the country was united in May 1990, but the armies were not merged.

Salih and al-Bid have been locked in a political dispute since August, when al-Bid refused to take up his duties as vice president in the northern capital Sanaa, demanding major economic, political and security reforms.

A reconciliation agreement signed in Amman on February 20 has failed so far to end the crisis, and at least 20 soldiers have been killed in clashes in the southern Abyan province.

Yemeni Tribal Leader Comments on Situation

PM0203114194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Feb 94 p 4

[Report by 'Abdallah al-Hajj on interview with Shaykh Naji Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Shayif, chief of the Yemeni Bakil tribes, in Jeddah; date not given]

[Text] Shaykh Naji Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Shayif, chief of the Yemeni Bakil tribes, expects a separation to take place between the two parts of Yemen. He said: "The separation has existed since olden times, and there is nothing for Yemen to lose from this separation."

In an interview in Jeddah al-Shayif told AL-HAYAH that "unity grants no superiority over anyone." He accused "those who made the Pledge and Accord Document" of planning not only to separate the south from the north, but to establish five separate regions, each divided into several governorates with their own resources, independence, and sovereignty, to be united temporarily under the Council of Ministers and then become independent later."

Al-Shayif described Yemeni unity as "abnormal; it does not reflect the will of the two parts of Yemen. And it has never been in the interests of the Yemeni people or friendly states in the region."

He expected "the ties of unity binding north and south Yemen to split soon at the end of the current tragic events."

He said that "the current deterioration in conditions between the two parts is the result of developments which are not new. They are the result of the Gulf crisis caused by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, whose ambition was to seize the Arabian Peninsula as a whole. And when the scheme aimed against the region's states and its friends, they [Yemeni leaders] invented the unity between the two parts with a view to destroying Yemen and its people. The outcome is the infighting and dispute which everyone is watching and which is harmful to Yemen."

He said that "by allying with the communists, they tried to sabotage Yemen's relations with its friends and brothers." Al-Shayif accused those he called "Shiite leaders" of "cooperating with the communists to openly instigate subversive actions in Yemen in order to attribute them to Yemen—government and people." He noted that "the aim is for Yemen and its people to be held responsible for what the communists did in order to divide the people of the one march in Yemen and the Arabian Peninsula."

He said: "As for the Socialist Party and the other parties allied with it, they caused the disaster." He added: "We felt sorry for our colleagues who were fooled by the methods of deception and did not wake up until recently, that is, until the introduction of the Pledge and Accord Document by the dialogue committee." He said that those who formulated this document "are members of the parties allied with the Socialist Party, nothing of which is left except its name, as socialism has died in the world as a whole."

He pointed out that members of the dialogue committee composed of the leaders of the parties allied with the Socialist Party "are running affairs in Yemen, even though they do not enjoy the support of honorable Yemeni citizens." He said that leaders of the Socialist Party "have reached that level only with the help of leaders of the General People's Congress and some of its members, who are working behind the scenes to serve the Socialist Party."

He criticized the Yemeni Reform Grouping, the General People's Congress, the House of Representatives, and the Presidential Council, which he said "lack authority, as affairs are run behind the scenes by elements from the Shiites allied with the communists."

He said that he had warned of the danger of what is happening at a meeting of Yemeni tribal chiefs held under him a few months ago.

He said that "what is happening in Yemen at present is that the ship is steered by the dialogue committee arising from Shiite sources, which pushes everyone to implement its members' schemes."

He stressed that "if the situation continues as it stands, we will find ourselves compelled to intervene and obliged to take a decisive initiative, even if hostile groups interpret it as aimed against our comrades in destiny. What we are interested in is to tackle the general situation, in which our comrades in common destiny are interested."

Officials Warn Against Infighting, Secession

JN0303123194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Sanaa, 3 Mar (INA)—Two Yemeni figures have warned against a suspicious scheme that is being carried out in Yemen to effect an irreversible secession through infighting.

In a statement aired over the Yemeni Television last night and relayed by the INA correspondent in Sanaa, Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister Brigadier General Mujahid Abu-Shawarib and opposition National Grouping Chairman Shaykh Sinan Abu-Luhum said that they have become convinced beyond any shadow of doubt that the scheme to effect an irreversible secession in the country is being carried out with sure steps, and that secession will be effected through bloodshed and a bitter infighting between the two parties to the conflict.

The two Yemeni officials asserted that the all Yemenis are responsible for safeguarding Yemen and its unity. They indicated that the accord document recently signed in Amman is the property of all the Yemeni people, and not that of a single ruler, party, or group. They held the Yemeni people responsible for protecting and defending this document.

The statement issued by the two Yemeni officials appealed to the Yemeni Army not to get involved in acts that could shed the blood of their fathers, brothers, and sons just to promote the interests of certain persons or parties, as such a thing would harm the interests of 14 million Yemenis. They asserted that they have made persistent efforts to achieve a minimum understanding between the parties to the conflict.

Timetable for Troop Withdrawal Agreed; Salih Comments

JN0303134594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, yesterday evening met with the brother members of the Joint Military Committee, which comprises a Jordanian work team headed by Staff Major General 'Id Kamil Ramadan; an Omani work team headed by Staff Major General 'Abd-al-'Alim (?Murtahin Rakhbut); Staff Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Salah, deputy army chief of staff for operations; and Colonel Muhammad Haytham Qasim, deputy army chief of staff for logistics.

The brother president was apprised of the progress of the committee's work, and of the outcome of its field activities. He was also briefed on the positive and gladdening results it has achieved in terms of ending military escalation and making preparations for the implementation of the military provisions enshrined in the accord document.

During the meeting, agreement was reached on a timetable for the withdrawal of Armed Forces units from contact lines to the pre- crisis positions they occupied before 19 August 1993, beginning with the western area in Bab el Mandeb, the central axis, and up to the eastern axis of Shabwah, Ma'rib, Hadramaut, and al-Mahrah, in implementation of the provisions enshrined in the accord document, and within the context of the authorization document the Joint Military Committee has received. The authorization document was signed by the brother Presidential Council chairman, who is the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and the brother vice president. This agreement is meant to spare our Yemeni people any bloody armed conflicts that could put the homeland and its unity in jeopardy. It is also designed to thwart the efforts of warmongers, advocates of secession, the enemies of unity and democracy, and all enemies of the Yemeni homeland. Similarly, it is meant to defeat all attempts to undermine the homeland's security and stability and push our country into the furnace of a destructive war. This agreement also seeks to frustrate the endeavors of those who, while engaged in oneupmanship, seek to capitalize on national issues at the expense of the people, promote selfish and parochial interests, build personal glories at the expense of the homeland's higher interests, and return our people to the period that preceded 22 May 1990.

The brother president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces asserted his constant support for the Military Committee's work. He indicated that he instructed the commands of both the Ministry of Defense and the Army General Staff to provide all possible facilities and extend every possible assistance to the committee to enable it to accomplish its mission, halt and eliminate all effects of the military escalation, and supervise the withdrawal of all units to their pre-crisis positions. He underlined the need for all to commit themselves to national constants, and also to the provisions enshrined in the accord document. He also underscored the importance of the speedy implementation of the provisions enshrined in the accord document without any delay or procrastination.

Salih emphasized that our Yemeni people will not condone any circumvention of the document or any encroachment on their national gains, especially unity and democracy. He called on all the political and righteous forces in Yemen and all our people to cooperate effectively with the armed and security forces to help them carry out their sacred national duties in defending the country's sovereignty and independence and in pooling efforts to build the 22 May Homeland [reference to the 1990 Yemen unity date] on firm and strong basis and in a spirit of national responsibility.

The brother president said that the armed and security forces belong to the people. They are the walls of the homeland and its impregnable fortress. They will never be a tool to destroy the country and its gains or a means of oppression, terror, and domination for the sake of a group whose only care is to ensure its remaining in power; a group which rejects submission to people's desire and opposes democracy and the principle of peaceful exchange of power.

Committee: Units' Return to Camps 'Proceeding Well'

JN0303175594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The higher joint military committee, which is made up of the deputy chiefs of staff for operations and logistics, the heads of the Jordanian and the Omani military committees, and the U.S. and French military attaches, has held a meeting. It reviewed the military situation and the extent of the commitment to the implementation of the military document issued by the brother chairman and vice chairman of the Presidential Council on the need for the return of all military units to their positions before the crisis.

The committee discussed the results of the field action and the extent of the military units' commitment to implementation through the reports submitted by the subcommittees supervising field activity.

The higher joint military committee asserts that the return to previous positions is proceeding well in Ta'izz, Lahd, Abyan, and Ibb. The committee has great confidence that the leaders of the groups and units in the rest of the regions have started to return to the agreed-upon locations.

The committee has decided to form a third subcommittee to supervise and monitor the return of units to their previous positions in Ma'rib and Shabwah. This subcommittee will start work tomorrow morning.

The higher military committee urges the brother [words indistinct] maximum degree of cooperation to facilitate the work of the subcommittees by carrying out the decisions issued to them in executive orders from the defense minister and the chief of the General Staff.

The higher military committee is working around the clock. It reassures the Yemeni people that there is a spirit of cooperation and accord between its sons and that everyone is concerned about the unity and cohesion of the Armed Forces to preserve Yemeni national unity.

Salih Receives Phone Call From Libya's al-Qadhdhafi

JN0303205094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received a phone call this evening from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September revolution. The two sides discussed several issues of interest to the two fraternal countries, as well as developments that interest our Arab nation. They also discussed the developments in our country in light of the signing of the pledge and accord document and the efforts exerted to end the political crisis and face the challenges that are imposed on the march of unity and democracy in our country.

The brother president reassured his brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the situation in our country, explaining to him that progress is being made to contain the crisis and tackle its regrettable repercussions. He pointed out that all the good forces in the homeland are pursuing efforts to eliminate the hotbeds of tension, implement the accord document, and adopt peaceful dialogue as a means for settling all disagreements and differences.

During the phone conversation, the brother president referred to the successes the joint military committee has scored on the level of checking the military repercussions and making the necessary preparations to implement the military part of the accord document.

The brother president expressed thanks and appreciation to his brother President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the brothers in Libya for their sincere brotherly stands, which embody an eagerness to safeguard the march of unity and democracy in our country. He also praised the pan-Arab role the brothers in Libya have carried out to support our country and all the unity efforts that brought about the establishment of the Republic of Yemen on 22 May 1990.

For his part, brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September revolution, voiced Libya's strong and uninterrupted support for Yemeni unity, stressing that stands by the side of all the good efforts that seek to preserve the unity march, given that it is a pan-Arab objective and a beacon for all the Arab unionists. He reaffirmed that Libya cannot but be with the unity and against all those who seek secession, or to harm the republic.

Salih, Syria's al-Asad Hold Phone Conversation

JN0303204494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, held a telephone conversation this evening with President Hafiz al-Asad of fraternal Syria.

During the conversation, the two presidents discussed issues of interest to both fraternal countries and ways of enhancing bilateral relations. The two presidents also reviewed developments in the Arab arena and the Arab stand toward these developments, as well as issues of interest to our Arab nation.

They also reviewed the situation in our country in light of ongoing efforts to contain the crisis and turn the accord document into concrete reality to enable our Yemeni people to overcome the political crisis and safeguard the march of unity, democracy, and stability in the homeland.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council expressed his thanks and appreciation for his brother, President Hafiz al-Asad, and the brothers in Syria for their concern about safeguarding the march of unity and democracy in our country and overcoming all challenges imposed by the political crisis that began on 19 August 1993.

He emphasized the efforts being made by all sincere people in the homeland to end the regrettable complications of the crisis and to begin to implement the accord document to bolster the march of unity and democracy and build a modern Yemeni state.

President Hafiz al-Asad said Syria—leadership, government, and people—stands by its brothers in Yemen and supports all efforts to safeguard the march of unity and democracy and bolster stability in Yemen.

He said Yemeni unity is a gain not only for Yemen but also for all the masses of our Arab nation, since it enhances their capabilities in the face of challenges.

Ba'th Party Issues Statement on Hebron Massacre

JN0403081394 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Statement issued by the Baghdad-based National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party on 3 March 1994]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Children of our mujahid Arab nation; children of Iraq and Palestine; O Arab strugglers, children of the Ba'th Party:

The massacre at the Holy Ibrahimi Mosque adds yet another tragic, bleeding event to the Arabs' wounds in Palestine, the Arab homeland, and the Muslim world. This was a major wound to dignity that reminds us of the burning of the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. It reminds us of the unseen reasons behind it, warns us against its serious consequences, specifies the disease in the body of the nation, and reveals a painful and depressing defect in Arab reactions and the contradiction that continues to expand between the true substance of the nation and its current reality.

The picture of this event—the picture of worshipers at dawn prayer, kneeling to Allah in the mihrab of Ibrahim [Abraham]—has entered into the mind of the Arab people and the Muslim peoples as a clear embodiment of the true nature of the Zionist entity, the deep wound in the Arab and Muslim realities, and the dimensions of the conspiracy against the Arab nation's future.

Such an event symbolizes the substantive meanings that reveal the nature and full dimensions of the challenge, which cannot be dealt with from a classical view or through an immediate reaction. It requires a daring, thorough thought about one's self and the event. Those who are today voicing denunciations and condemnations and showing outrage, as well as those who pretend to have been outraged, should not only express pain and outrage. They should ask the basic question: Why was Palestine usurped? The Ibrahimi Mosque event must make Arabs ask this question again. It should make them raise their political analyses to a level that goes beyond the logic of the regimes that have given in to negative realities and circumstances and to the schemes of enemies that made the Arab conditions reach such a position.

Such a major event combines the meanings and images that remind us of the origins of the Palestinian and Arab national and pan-Arab tragedies and the conspiracy against the Arab nation's future and destiny. Therefore, emphasizing the substantive meanings of the Ibrahimi Mosque event and turning these feelings into mature action and a (noble?) view of a genuine strategy to face current challenges is the sound way to deal with this bloody event, in which a new group of Palestinian martyrs joined the caravan of Arab struggle.

O valiant sons of Arabism: The massacre of the holy Ibrahimi Mosque raises several significant questions. The bloody incident raises the question of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It reasserts its new dimensions, which were absent from the plans of those who are working to resolve the Palestine question and those who are running after crumbs of humiliation and unfair solutions. These solutions hold an arrogant, usurping criminal to be the same as a victim whose self-defense capability, existence, rights, and destiny are restrained by Western powers and Zionism.

This horrible massacre brings into question anew the root of the problem, namely, the Zionist occupation. It exposes old and new Western intentions to encroach on the Arab nation's rights to progress by continuing a colonialist policy that is permeated with a Zionist spirit bearing grudges against Arabism and Islam. The new massacre raises anew the question about the real role of the Zionist entity, a role that manifests itself in this barbarous example of terror and collective killing, a role that holds all values in contempt and whose only aim is to hamper the Arab nation's cultural and human progress. It embodies an example of the cultural degeneration that is revealed if we compare the scene of the worshipers, portraying the meaning of human faith, and the scene of Zionist treachery that depicts Zionism's racist nature as well as the hatred and rancor imbibed by Zionist generations who have made their first aim annihilating the Arabs.

Thus, the grave incident portrays the contradiction between the line of the capitulationist settlement on the one hand and the real nature of the Zionist enemy and the real dimension of the Arab-Israeli struggle on the other, shedding light on plans and schemes aimed at opening the door for transforming the Arab region into a graveyard of its own history and people's rights and wiping out its national identity and the aspirations of its masses. The characteristics of jihad as manifested in the Mother of Battles have thus reasserted their values, strengthened their principled logic, and renewed the nation's confidence in facing he challenges, no matter how great and immense they may be.

The Ibrahimi Mosque incident might have been just a new wound in the nation's body had it not been for the spirit of jihad released by the Mother of Battles which saved this body from being totally paralyzed, opening new horizons for the Arab struggle and making clear what is possible and what is not possible in light of the clarity of the nation's substance, the level of deception in it and the exposure of the deceivers and the great distance that separates them from the line of the mujahidin.

O free Palestinians and Arabs. The factors of the current Palestinian, Arab, and international situation are interacting to express the nation's substance and cultural struggle in facing the aggressive Western colonialist policies and Zionism's fascist, racist, domineering, and expansionist nature. The Mother of Battles opened the door for a new phase of mass struggle. Therefore, despite its grave and disastrous nature, the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre brought a new powerful shock to the nation and released the anger of the broad masses in the Arab homeland against the settlement scheme to liquidate the Palestinian cause. It reaffirmed the truthfulness of the Mother of Battle's principled stand of jihad in expressing the nation's dignity, honor, and the future of Palestine and Arabism.

The time has come for a discussion in this spirit by the nation's free men in a pan-Arab program, and for emphasizing the pan-Arab nature of the battle for a comprehensive mass confrontation of the Zionist challenge and the capitulationist settlement line.

Now that our Palestinian people have given their opinion on all the capitulationist formulas, the nation is motivated to take care of its central cause and to effect a program of struggle that is farsighted and carefully wrought, which will transform the revenge for the martyrs blood into profound motives for entrenching the principled stand for the sake of liberation, for strengthening the spirit of jihad and the struggle for unity, and for raising the confrontation to a new and advanced level on the road to liberation and to the realization of pan-Arab aims.

The Ibrahimi Mosque incident reveals to those who had believed that the Gaza-Jericho agreement had ended the Arab-Zionist struggle and placed the Palestinian cause on the brink of liquidation that they are deceiving themselves. This is because this illusion presents a superficial, unrealistic view of the nature of the struggle and an incorrect picture of the nature of the enemy. To attach new traits to the Zionist enemy that do not match its nature is a matter of theorization in order to justify the retreat from the real principled stand and the correct revolutionary concept of the nation's resources.

The unprincipled agreements, no matter under what names and regardless of their descriptions, are an abandonment of the substance of the nation and the understanding of the enemy's nature. The chaste blood shed at the Ibrahimi Mosque and the betrayed blood that will be added to the rivers of blood in Palestine and the Arab arenas of struggle, coupled with the pain twisting in our hearts as a nation facing immense dangers, call upon us to reconsider and contemplate, stop this capitulationist policy and restore the principled awareness that binds our nationalist stands in various arenas. Foremost of these arenas is the one in which the nation expressed its historic readiness to confront the challenges besieging us and the capitulationist schemes that contradict our real nature as a mujahid nation capable of steadfastness in the face of this barbarous and evil aggression, which assumed the most terrible dimension during the 30-state aggression against Iraq and the most treacherous and grotesque picture in the attack on the Ibrahimi Mosque and the worshipping faithful during the month of Ramadan, the symbol of peace and Islam. The incident reveals the enemy's brutality in the face of the humane Arabism and its contemporary cultural endeavor.

Children of Arabism and Islam: Adhering to the principled course constitutes the boat of survival for the nation. If the struggling Arab forces are incapable of engaging in equal, decisive battles under the current pan-Arab circumstances, this does not absolve them from standing fast and harassing the enemies in order to confuse their plans and weaken their resources and morale, until the day when conditions for decisive battles become available. Introducing the criteria for what is correct and what is biased in the current positions is one of the most important requirements for struggle and jihad in this circumstance.

Therefore, despite the seeming disequilibrium in the balance of forces in favor of the imperialist and Zionist camp, the Ibrahimi Mosque crime reveals the bankruptcy of Zionist methods in the face of Arab resistance to occupation and usurpation. It confirms the ability of the militant Arab forces to stand fast and resist as long as they abide by the principled course, which sticks to national and pan-Arab rights, as the realistic, genuine course that understands the nature of the decisive, cultural conflict the nation is fighting in defense of its right to life and renaissance.

Consequently, the spirit of resistance, the spirit of the Mother of Battles and the stone-throwing heroes, must be maintained. It must continue in the nation and must expand, be entrenched, and spread in the greater Arab homeland because this spirit will decide the final outcome of the conflict and the cultural and humanitarian meanings of the national and pan-Arab liberation struggle.

Arabs may not be able to regain all of their rights now. However, by maintaining their principled positions and honor, they can guarantee the future and create new militant formulas by siding with the masses to revive militant and jihad popular action in national and pan-Arab life and transform emerging events, regardless of how great their challenges may be, and threats and pains into futuristic phenomena and steady steps on the path of the future, which the nation and its sacrifices are worthy of.

If you aid God, he will aid you. [part of a Koranic verse]
Long live Palestine, free and Arab;
Long live the struggle of the people of Palestine and the stone-throwing children;
Long live the principled, jihad confrontation in the Mother of Battles;
Long live the mujahid people of Iraq;
Long live the nation of the Arabs, free and glorious.

[Signed] The National Command
[Dated] 21 Ramadan 1414 hegira, corresponding to 3 March 1994

'Aziz Reacts to FOREIGN AFFAIRS Article

JN0403113394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1038 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has stressed that the bad advisers to the U.S. President, who are pushing the U.S. Administration into taking rancorous and illogical stands and are preventing the UN Security Council from fulfilling its obligations toward Iraq, will reap the results of their shallow and rancorous positions.

Reacting to a recent article by U.S. National Security Adviser Tony Lake in FOREIGN AFFAIRS magazine, in which Lake discusses what he calls the double containment policy, 'Aziz told INA that these advisers are involving their president in incorrect positions and pushing U.S. policy in the region to a dead end.

Tariq 'Aziz added that the position announced by U.S. National Security Adviser Tony Lake—in which he adopts the views of his professional Zionist assistant, Martin Indyk—reflects a rancorous, hostile, colonialist attitude, as well as the shallow thinking of U.S. President Bill Clinton's advisers.

'Aziz said: Tony Lake speaks of peoples and nations as if he is playing a computer game. He forgets the facts of history and the will of the peoples, which, in the end, is the decisive factor that determines results.

Tariq 'Aziz explains that this adviser, who lacks sufficient knowledge of history, the social and political facts of the region, and conditions inside Iraq, cannot provide any convincing evidence to prove the policy he is promoting has achieved any of its objectives.

He noted that the insistence on maintaining the blockade against Iraq is not only a hostile and evil course, but is also the wrong course and will not achieve any of the declared objectives stated by the U.S. policy planners.

He stressed that Iraq is a deep-rooted country that has a superb ability to stand fast and that its people are strongly behind their national leadership and have proved this on the ground. He also said the reports Tony Lake mentions about the domestic situation inside Iraq are silly and are based on sources with no credibility whatsoever. This information, 'Aziz added, is given to the U.S. Administration by elements who are paid for their worthless services by U.S. intelligence services and the governments of Jabir [Kuwait] and Fahd [Saudi Arabia].

Tariq 'Aziz said the game of containing peoples and states by applying pressure and extortion is a losing game that will lead to a dead end. He said the correct way to build security and stability in the region and the world is to show respect for the will of the peoples and their legitimate interests, and to deal with them in a civilized manner.

Regarding Iraq's position on issues of security and stability in the region that were discussed by Tony Lake, the deputy prime minister said: Iraq was, and will remain, a principal factor influencing security and stability in the region. The policy of weakening Iraq that the United States has been following will not improve the state of security and stability, as suggested by Lake. Instead, it has led to increasing tension and chaos, and led, in effect, to indirect U.S. occupation of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf. It also led—and this is clearly a fact— to the impoverishment of the states of the Peninsula and the Gulf and the squandering of their wealth. These states were very rich before the aggression against Iraq, but are now in debt and have lost all their reserves. Their future is no longer guaranteed. This reality is one of the factors threatening security and stability in the region. These facts also refute this shallow and wrong course which Clinton's advisers are promoting.

Tariq 'Aziz said: These advisers are involving their president in wrong positions. In the most recent letter they prepared for him to send to Congress on policy toward Iraq, they included lies and flagrant falsehoods. The content of that letter contradicts the statements and documents issued by the UN Security Council Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency. It also includes silly allegations that do not agree with reason and logic or geographic facts in Iraq.

'Aziz added: Such advisers are pushing U.S. policy in the region to a dead end. The allies in the region, referred to by Lake in his article as pillars that guarantee this policy, are now weaker in all aspects—political, economic, and security—than they were before the aggression against Iraq. So, how can they guarantee for Mr. Lake the objectives he has drawn for U.S. policy in the region?

Tariq 'Aziz said: Iraq has fulfilled its obligations as stipulated by UN Security Council resolutions. This dictates that Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 should be implemented immediately and without setting any additional conditions.

UN Human Rights Official's Claims Refuted

JN0303210194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] United Nations, 3 Mar (INA)—In an official letter to the UN secretary general, Iraq has refuted Max Van der Stoel's claims, saying the claims lack credibility and are full of fallacies.

In its reply to Van der Stoel's report, Iraq clarified that his anti-Iraq claims fall within the framework of the political role assigned to him to create crises and to serve aggressive foreign schemes against Iraq.

The letter, whose official text was published here today, Thursday, says that by doing so, Van der Stoel exposes the role assigned to him to prevent the international community from lifting the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq.

The letter notes that Van der Stoel's report is based on claims by persons who live in Iran, London, and the Hague, and who are known for their hostility to Iraq and for their desire to harm it pursuant to achieving suspect political objectives that have nothing whatsoever to do with human rights.

Iraq's letter clarifies that Max Van der Stoel's report is based on blind provocation, and that, consequently, Van der Stoel was not neutral or objective, but biased, and that he violated the task assigned to him.

The Iraqi letter exposes Max Van der Stoel's claims paragraph by paragraph. It says: Van der Stoel did not take the trouble to verify what he claims, in terms of information or the fabricated videotapes and photographs that were supplied to him by hostile political sides linked with foreign forces whose objective is to create confusion and to tarnish Iraq's reputation.

The letter stresses Iraq's official stand toward providing all the requirements of security and protection for all its citizens in accordance with its national laws and international commitments, and toward securing all their civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights all over Iraq.

The letter adds that what the competent authorities do is part of the Iraqi state's responsibility and basic national duties of maintaining security and stability throughout Iraq.

In its letter, Iraq accused Van der Stoel of involvement in the political propaganda campaign aimed at dismembering Iraq geographically. The letter says: Max Van der Stoel's claims lack credibility and have premeditated hostile intentions against Iraq.

The letter says: The Kurdish people are part of the Iraqi people under any circumstances. The national authorities have continued to provide the northern governorates with rations just like the other Iraqi governorates.

The letter adds: The militias in the northern region, which are protected by the foreign forces there, steal these rations. They either sell them to citizens for double their regular price or smuggle them to neighboring states.

The letter strongly attacks Max Van der Stoel's calls for controlling human rights observers in Iraq, and says that the Iraqi Government categorically rejects this idea, especially since it flagrantly conflicts with the principles of sovereignty, independence, and noninterference.

The letter clarifies that Van der Stoel is trying to turn these observers into political agents for the colonialist states, and thus, he ignores the Iraqi state's responsibilities concerning sovereignty and independence.

The letter says: By his claims, Van der Stoel flagrantly violates two principles of the UN Charter; namely, the principle of noninterference in the affairs that constitute an essential part of the state's internal sovereignty, and the principle of respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.

Turkey Protests Kurdish Request for Moscow Ties

NC0303211694 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] A Kurdish conference sponsored by the Russian authorities has sent a message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin asking Moscow to establish official relations with the Kurdish movement based on their mutual interests.

Reporting this yesterday, the London-based AL-HAYAH newspaper said the Ankara government forwarded a protest to Moscow and asked for an explanation.

In this context, it has been announced in Ankara that the Turkish deputy foreign minister left for Moscow the day before yesterday to demand an official explanation.

The conference organized by numerous Kurdish groups in Moscow last week was held in cooperation with the Russian Ministry of Nationalities and Regional Policy Affairs under the theme "Kurdistan at a Historical and Political Crossroads."

Rabin Appeals to Palestinians To Resume Talks

NC0303172894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1615 GMT 3 Mar 94

[From the "Evening Newsreel" program]

[Text] Referring to the agreement with the PLO, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that if the negotiations are resumed, we can reach an agreement within one month.

[Begin Rabin recording] I was aware that Hamas and the Islamic Jihad on the Palestinian side will do everything to intensify terrorism and kill Israelis—and I stress Israelis, and my intention is Israeli Jews and non-Jews. Furthermore, I was aware that there is friction, and there was friction, with settlers, particularly with the most radical—the members of the Kakh and Kahane Hay groups and their supporters. But I admit it was difficult to imagine that such a hideous murder would be perpetrated by an Israeli—and what is more, one who wears a cap. I did not imagine that there would also be an Israeli Hamas or Jewish Hamas. I appeal to the Palestinians and their leadership in Tunis: I understand the pain and the anger. Don't allow a lone Jewish murderer who killed Palestinian Muslims just for being who they were, during prayers, to destroy the prospect for peace. [end recording]

U.S. Reportedly Demanding Disarmament of Settlers

NC0403064894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] The United States is demanding that Israel detain scores of settlers from the hardline and extremist groups and hold them in administrative detention, our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan reports. The United States also thinks that Israel must disarm the settlers and supply them with light weapons for self-defense only.

These issues were scheduled to be raised in the preparatory talks of Nabil Sha'th with Dennis Ross, U.S. peace talks coordinator, and Martin Indyk, a member of the National Security Council, before Sha'th's meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher this afternoon.

Peres Denies Report of U.S. Demand

NC0403084194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says he has not received any official communication from the United States regarding the need to adopt further measures against the settlers. He said the government has decided to adopt measures against persons who are likely to constitute a threat. These measures include administrative detentions, transferring people from one place to another, and disarming people. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that Minister Peres was speaking at the conclusion of a meeting with the EC representatives, the Greek foreign minister, and the commissioner for foreign relations.

U.S. Official, Peres Discuss Resumption of Talks

NC0403101394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is currently meeting with U.S. Undersecretary of State Peter Tarnoff to discuss ways to resume negotiations between Israel and the PLO. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that Tarnoff will shortly meet with Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, and will hear about the PLO's demands for the resumption of the negotiations.

Peres on Talks With Tarnoff

NC0403112794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said following his talks with U.S. Undersecretary of State Peter Tarnoff that Israel is ready to come to terms with the Palestinians and supports the establishment of a strong Palestinian police. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz says Peres' statement apparently means that Israel is prepared to restrict the number of Palestinian policemen to more than 8,000. The prime minister has recently said that this is the figure that Israel has agrees to.

Regarding foreign presence in the territories, the foreign minister said Israel agrees to this according to the Declaration of Principles. In the foreign minister's opinion, it is possible to successfully conclude the negotiations with the Palestinians within one month.

Our correspondent adds that the situation in Russia was also discussed in the meeting.

Savir Receives U.S. Assistant Secretary of State

JN0303195494 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Israel and the United States have decided to enhance political dialogue between the two countries concerning a long list of strategic, regional, and international issues, and to form technical working committees to discuss these topics in detail.

This came at the end of the talks Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir held with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff who is currently on a visit to the country.

Peres on Labor Party's Desire To Expand Government

NC0403112294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the Labor Party is seeking to expand the coalition to increase the government's endurance capacity and its ability to conduct the peace negotiations. Minister Peres says that before his party can continue the negotiations with opposition parties to bring them into the government, it must discuss the matter first with its partners.

Labor Party leaders will meet this afternoon with Meretz ministers and will ask them to remove their opposition to Tzomet's inclusion in the coalition.

Police Chief Outlines Security Measures for Al-Aqsa

JN0303193294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Police Commissioner General Rafi Peled, said today that the police will take practical measures tomorrow, Friday to maintain calm and order during the Friday prayers at the al-Aqsa Mosque, such as limiting the number of worshipers, imposing restrictions on those entering al-Aqsa, particularly those below 40 years of age, in addition to not allowing the Jewish worshipers to visit the wailing Wall during these hours.

Gen. Peled's statements were made to our correspondent for police affairs, Kayid Zahir, at the annual meeting of the Border Guard held in the Jerusalem theater, and attended by Police Minister Moshe Shahal, and Border Guard officers and commanders. During this meeting, award certificates and police medals were bestowed on several Druze and Jewish members of the Border Guard for outstanding activities while performing their duties in the special units.

Police Remove Arab Youths From Temple Mount Area

NC0303193594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The Jerusalem police are currently removing from the area of Temple Mount scores of Arab youths who broke into the [al-Aqsa] Mosque's compound a short while ago. Our correspondent Ravid Bushinsky says that police forces at the Temple Mount area and forces summoned to the area are removing the youths without using force. It is assumed that the youths are seeking to spend the night there in order to be among the many worshipers who arrive for Friday prayers tomorrow and for fear that the police will prevent youths from entering the mosques.

Friday Prayers in Jerusalem Held Without Incident

NC0403112594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Friday prayers at the Temple Mount mosques are continuing without any incidents. Some 20,000 worshipers, all from Jerusalem, arrived for the prayers. The closure of the territories did not permit Muslims from other places to arrive for the prayers. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that very large police forces are present in the area. The police have evacuated all Jewish worshipers from the Western Wall compound.

Closure of Judea, Samaria, Strip To Continue

NC0303182194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] In view of the security situation, the closure of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will continue. Entry of the residents of the territories into the territory of the State of Israel, including Jerusalem, will not be permitted during the coming weekend and in the coming week.

IDF Continuing To Implement Plans in Gaza, Jericho

NC0403063594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] The IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] continue to implement plans in Gaza and Jericho despite the massacre in Hebron, on the assumption that the negotiations will continue. A senior military source told our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe that alternative sites are being built to absorb the forces and command, buildings, towers, antennas, and communications installations. Work is also continuing on a fence around the Gaza Strip. No redeployment is being carried out right now.

Our correspondent reports that since the Hebron massacre, the security authorities and the IDF have been holding daily discussions and evaluations.

Rights Group Protests Force Used to Quell Riots

LD0303215894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 2000 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The Israeli human rights organization, Betzelem, has sharply criticized the lethal gunfire used by the army to quell Palestinian riots. At a news conference in Jerusalem today, Betzelem said soldiers killed 21 Palestinian since the Hebron massacre.

In response, the government said soldiers were under orders to be restrained but found themselves in life-threatening situations. Steve Linde reports:

[Begin recording] [Linde] Betzelem says after the mosque massacre the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]

(?streamed) large numbers of troops into heavily populated Palestinian areas and permitted them to use live fire against Palestinian demonstrators. Betzelem research director Yuwal Ginbar:

[Ginbar] It was found that during less than a week 21 Palestinians and one Israeli were shot to death by Israeli security forces. This is an extremely large number. This stems from the fact that, right after the massacre, the army—instead of being moderate, instead of being tolerant, instead of letting the population express its anger and grief—went in with force to all the population centers, used heavily live ammunition in order to disperse crowds. And the result was the deaths, so many deaths.

[Linde] In response, the government says soldiers opened fire only when their lives were threatened. Government Press Office Director Uri Dromi:

[Dromi] Those soldiers were under danger for their life, and they had to open fire in order to rescue themselves from the situation. Needless to say, there were orders given to the soldiers in the beginning to try and restrain themselves—use the minimum fire possible—because we were all aware of the anger and the pain and the agony of the people. But, unfortunately, in this kind of loaded situation and strained environment, law and order must be maintained, and it is the duty of the army to do so.

[Linde] Betzelem called on the authorities to refrain from augmenting forces in Palestinian population centers and introducing troops not trained in riot control, and it urged the government to immediately halt all forms of collective punishment, such as curfews and closures.

Steve Linde reporting. [end recording]

'More Than 30' Palestinians Shot, Wounded by IDF

NC0303215794 Paris AFP in English 2057 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Jerusalem, March 3 (AFP)—Israeli troops shot and wounded more than 30 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Thursday [3 March], but the level of violence was down from the previous days after the Hebron massacre.

Palestinian sources said 27 people were shot in the West Bank, including 10 in a clash between troops and demonstrators in the village of Nahalian near Bethlehem.

Seven Arabs were hit by army bullets in Gaza, they said. Also on the strip, an alleged collaborator with the Israelis was killed. PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's mainstream Fatah group claimed responsibility for the killing of Salim Alibani, who was 40. [passage omitted]

The army also sealed off the territories on Sunday preventing 70,000 Palestinians from reaching their jobs in Israel. The closure is to be enforced for another week, according to Israeli television.

Troops were on alert for Friday, the day of Moslem prayers and a week after the Hebron killings.

Palestinians, Settlers Involved in Incident

NC0403074694 Paris AFP in English 0705 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied, March 4 (AFP)—[dateline as received] Settlers shot dead a Palestinian who attacked them with a knife in a Jewish settlement on the Gaza Strip on Friday [4 March], a settlers spokesman said.

Two settlers were hurt, one seriously, in a greenhouse on the edge of the [Gush] Qatif settlement early in the morning after three Palestinians managed to get in.

The other two attackers escaped, one winged by a bullet.

The army sealed off the area, set up roadblocks and launched a manhunt for the two men.

Committee Investigating Massacre Holds Meeting

JN0303191294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The official committee formed to investigate the Hebron massacre held its first meeting this evening at the Higher Court building in the capital.

The purpose of the meeting was to make technical arrangements for the committee's work prior to its first public meetings next week.

Attorney Shomo'el Kassar has made an appeal to the Higher Court of Justice asking it to issue an order to prevent the official committee from beginning investigations into the criminal incident that took place at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

The appeal said investigating this case is wholly rejected, since, to date, no committee of inquiry has been formed to investigate several bloody incidents against Jewish citizens.

Our legal affairs correspondent Moshe Matlih said Attorney Kassar attributes the formation of the committee to political reasons.

Telecommunications Disruptions Continue in Areas

NC0403085594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] There are serious disruptions in telephone service in the country. Many of the telephone lines have been disconnected by the striking Bezeq Company employees. Many of the problems and disconnections have been deliberately made by the company employees, the company's director general said this morning. The company will establish an inspection committee, and if employees are found to be guilty of malicious action against the telephone network, disciplinary and even judicial measures will be taken against them.

Meanwhile, our correspondent Meron Tzur reports that there are difficulties in dialing from inside and outside the country. This includes, among others, facsimile and some computer communications. Employees have returned to normal work only in the Haifa District and the north. The company is considering distributing back-to-work orders to the employees to ensure vital services. It is also awaiting an answer from the employees committee on a compromise proposal made last night.

Court To Issue Judgment

NC0403070194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Bezeq Company employees in the Haifa district and the north returned to work last night but telephone disruptions elsewhere in the country continue. The Bezeq Company did not order employees to return to work last night and conducted negotiations with them to secure their agreement to end the disruptions. Our correspondent Meron Tzur reports that the employees have not said whether they will end disruptions before the District Labor Court issues a judgment on Sunday.

Rabin Urged To Implement Accord Unilaterally

TA0303145694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Mar 94 p B1

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "To Go On As If 'Arafat Was There"]

[Text] The ministers have been spreading themselves thin over all Israeli and foreign electronic and print media, desperately urging Yasir 'Arafat to return expeditiously to the negotiating table. The Hebron massacre increased Yitzhaq Rabin's dependence on the PLO leader and encouraged—perhaps even forced—'Arafat to present some extraordinary demands which no responsible prime minister could accept, even under the heavy shadow of the Cave of the Patriarchs massacre.

Disarm the settlers? This would be tantamount to leaving them there to be murdered by Palestinians. Deploy an international element in the territories? By the time of this was actually implemented, Israel would have been coerced into agreeing to an international presence that was far greater in scope and higher in status than the government could ever have imagined. Permit the Security Council to intervene in the political process? That would mean the collapse of the first of Israeli diplomacy's Ten Commandments. Or move the talks to Washington? This would indicate the end of all hope that the two nations at the center of the conflict could make their way through an agreement manufactured in the Middle East.

Even after the massacre, there are things Israel can offer to and trade with the PLO, but it has no option that will allow its government to take independent action designed to pressure 'Arafat to stop stalling.

The debate on a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the territories seems to have died out with the signing of the Israeli-PLO Declaration of Principles in September 1993. Who would want to be a solo dancer when two are willing to participate in this tango and when all the ministers firmly believe that this twosome is a prerequisite?

What we have now is not merely a new situation but also a new option. Under the present circumstances, Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, who participated in the political talks with the Palestinians, is willing to consider a combination of two approaches: Israel should make it clear to the PLO that it will not confront it with a fait accompli in the territories but will take steps toward a unilateral implementation of the nearly signed Israeli-Palestinian Gaza-Jericho agreement. Until now, Sarid had persistently opposed the idea of a unilateral withdrawal.

The difference here is substantial. Had the original unilateral withdrawal proposal been accepted, Israel would have announced the parameters of its withdrawal from the territories, the locations it was abandoning, and the dates. The present case is different. Warren Christopher stated last Tuesday that 95 percent of the agreement on the first phase of autonomy has been completed. This can be used to threaten the PLO that Israel will implement the agreement even without it and that it had better seriously go about making practical preparations on the ground.

In practice, this would enable Israel to pull the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] out of these areas; to abolish the military-civilian bodies still operating there; to take labor- and economy-related steps in accordance with the agreements Avraham Shohat was about to finalize with Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray']; and to make progress on some particularly difficult clauses in the agreement with the PLO, such as the Rafah and the Jordan River border crossings.

Israel can set up these border crossings in accordance with plans finalized in the Cairo talks and start operating them in the agreed manner. The Palestinian side of the crossings will remain vacant until 'Arafat decides to man it. The Israeli side of the crossing will be fully operational, and Israel will fill in for the Palestinians as long as they remain absent.

And what about the issues that have not been concluded? What kind of documents will the Palestinians issue? How will a mass influx of refugees into the territories be prevented? And mainly, how many square kilometers will the Jericho arrangement cover?

On these matters, Israel will do what it considers convenient but, at the same time, will stress that negotiations on them can resume at the exact point at which they were broken off.

Even those who opposed a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the territories now realize that such a move will spur the PLO to return promptly to the negotiating path, lest Gaza and Jericho drop like ripe fruit into Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] lap. 'Arafat may even be interested in receiving such a threat from the Israelis.

While a decisive step of this kind will exacerbate the dispute with the right-wing opposition, we must admit—embarrassing as it is—that it is easier to go through any national soul-searching under the new circumstances than in any other political scenario. At this time, it is hard for the settlers to recruit even part of the Likud, the NRP [National Religious Party], and Tzomet for an effective opposition.

In addition, the present climate offers a secondary gain. Rabin, who has been refusing to uproot a single Israeli settlement, was unable to do it under a pressure from and for the sake of the PLO; but should he come to terms with himself, even border adjustments in Netzarim, Tall al-Rumaythah, and Hebron's Bet Hadassah are not impossible—on condition that the government wants it with all its heart and has the necessary political and personal energy.

Peace Negotiators Return From Washington

JN0303171394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1610 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Members of the Jordanian delegation to the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks have returned to Amman from Washington. Delegation member Marwan Dudin said the delegation's return came in the wake of a Jordanian decision, in coordination with the other Arab parties, on suspending the current round of negotiations as part of the manifestations of protest and anger that prevailed among the official and popular circles in Jordan following the savage massacre against the worshipers at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque last Friday.

The decision to suspend the negotiations was made at the government's instructions after holding intensive Arab contacts.

Greek Foreign Minister Papoulias on Official Visit

Arrives, Makes Statement

JN0203205894 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 2 Mar 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias arrived in Jordan on a visit, which will include talks on bilateral relations and the Middle East peace process. The Greek minister is the current chairman of the European Union Council of Ministers. He arrived in Amman after visits to Israel and the PLO headquarters in Tunis.

He told Jordan Television that he will discuss with Jordanian officials current conditions in the Middle East in the wake of the Hebron massacre. He said the most pressing issue now is to maintain the momentum of the peace process.

The Greek foreign minister added that the European Union believes that a demand by the Palestinians in the occupied lands for international protection is just one.

Received by Prime Minister

JN0303151994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at the Prime Ministry this morning Karolos Papoulias, Greek foreign minister and chairman of the European Community [EC] Council of Ministers, and the delegation accompanying him.

Their discussion dealt with bilateral relations and the existing cooperation between Jordan and the EC countries, ways of enhancing them, as well as the most important issues in the international arena.

In a press statement on the most important ideas he communicated to the Israeli leaders on behalf of the Palestinian president, Papoulias said: These ideas revolve around calming the atmosphere and creating a new atmosphere that would facilitate things, provide security for the Palestinians, and lead to disarming the settlers and resuming the dialogue between the two sides. He said that the Israeli side has promised to take these ideas into consideration and will reply to them later. He said: Efforts will be exerted in the future and the EC hopes that the peace efforts will produce good results and will not reach a dead end.

The meeting was attended by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr. Fawwaz Abu-al-Ghanam, minister of state; the Jordanian ambassador to Greece; the Greek ambassador to Jordan; and the EC representative in Amman.

Meets Foreign Minister

JN0303162394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The Jordanian side, led by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Greek side, led by Karolos Papoulias, Greek foreign minister and the current chairman of the EC Council of Ministers, held a session of talks at the Foreign Ministry this morning.

The two sides addressed friendly bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them, as well as relations with the EC. They also discussed the latest developments in the region and in the peace process.

Al-Hasan stressed the deep relations of friendship and cooperation between Jordan and both Greece and the EC. The special relations King Husayn has with European leaders have contributed a great deal to developing these relations.

Al-Hasan reviewed the developments in the peace process and Jordan's important, pivotal role through its constant calls for achieving a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. He also reviewed the tremendous, courageous efforts His Majesty King Husayn has made to advance the peace process toward its objectives in line with Resolutions 242 and 338 and the foundations of international legitimacy on which it was launched. These foundations are represented in Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, ensuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil, ensuring Jordan's rights to territory and water, and resolving the problem of the refugees.

Al-Hasan pointed out that Jordan has borne great burdens as a result of the repercussions of the Arab-Israeli dispute, the Gulf crisis, and its reception of successive waves of emigrants resulting from these crises—including one in 1948, another in 1967, and ending with the Gulf crisis in 1991. This is in addition to the indebtedness and other financial burdens it has borne in this context.

Al-Hasan noted the difficulties Jordan is facing as a result of the siege imposed on the Gulf of 'Aqabah, despite Jordan's commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Al-Hasan also briefed the guest on Jordan's democratic process and the eagerness of the leadership and the people to perpetuate and develop it in line with the principles of rule by the Constitution and legislation and respect for human rights.

Minister al-Hasan noted his appreciation for the support and aid that the EC states have extended to Jordan and the region, as well as the EC's efforts to promote the peace process, particularly the multi-party negotiations. He also appreciated the EC's sponsorship of the economic development working group. He expressed hope that this aid will increase to enable Jordan to continue its important role in the peace process.

The two sides also discussed the hideous massacre that the Israeli settlers committed at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque during the dawn prayers last Friday in the blessed month of Ramadan. They emphasized their condemnation of this criminal act and stressed the need to provide the necessary protection for the Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories. They also stressed the need to disarm the settlers, and the importance of speeding up the achievement of a comprehensive peace that will end the regional conflict.

For his part, the guest minister stressed the deep ties of friendship between Jordan and both his country and the EC states. Thanks to His Majesty King Husayn, these relations were established and consolidated through his strong friendly relations with their leaders, he said. The guest minister also said he appreciated his majesty's wise policy and courageous positions in support of a peace that will be accepted by the coming generations.

The guest minister also stressed his understanding of the economic difficulties and burdens Jordan is facing as a result of its commitment to the peace process. He also noted appreciation for the important role Jordan is playing to serve the causes of peace, and stressed the need to support Jordan to continue this role. He lauded the democratic experience Jordan is living.

The two sides reviewed relations between Greece [as heard] and the European states and the ways to consolidate and promote them in various fields. In this regard, the two sides noted their good bilateral political relations and the need to expand this in the economic, cultural, tourist, air transport, and other fields.

Regarding relations with the EC states, the two sides agreed on the importance of convening the Jordanian-European Commission Joint Cooperation Council as soon as possible.

Confers With Planning Minister

JN0303194594 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Amman, 3 Mar (PETRA)—Planning Minister Dr. Ziyad Fariz today received Karolos Papoulias, Greek foreign minister and chairman of the EC Council of Ministers, and his delegation.

Dr. Fariz reviewed the challenges Jordan is facing in the current phase, the circumstances prevailing in the region, the economic measures Jordan has adopted, and the achievements it has realized. He also reviewed the repercussions of the Gulf crisis, including the decline in Jordanian exports to the Gulf states and the reduced demand for Jordanian workers in these states. [passage omitted]

Dr. Fariz noted his appreciation for the EC aid to Jordan, and urged the EC to further support Jordan in the economic field in order to fill the 1994 financial gap and alleviate the burden of the general indebtedness. [passage omitted]

Dr. Fariz also reviewed Jordanian-Greek relations in the economic, trade, technical, and cultural fields based on the bilateral cooperation agreement signed in 1976. He discussed with the guest minister ways to activate bilateral cooperation by establishing joint food and agricultural industries, and holding meetings between businessmen from both countries to explore new ideas and promote cooperation in various fields.

The guest minister noted the extent of identity between the objectives of the Jordanian development plans and those which the EC is seeking to achieve in order to encourage competitiveness and fight both unemployment and poverty. He said he highly appreciated the great efficiency Jordan is enjoying in the field of economic and other policies. He noted that Jordan will be supported by the EC in various fields.

Delivers Letters to King Husayn

JN0303172994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] In the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, His Majesty King Husayn received Karolos Papoulias, Greek foreign minister and the current chairman of the EC Council of Ministers at the Royal Hashemite Court today.

Papoulias conveyed to his majesty an oral message from Greek President Konstandinos Karamanlis, a letter from the EC, and a letter from Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou. The guest minister also conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn the Greek president's greetings and appreciation for his majesty's great role in maintaining security and stability in this region that has suffered from tension and conflict for decades.

The EC's letter contained the EC's great appreciation for the continued sincere efforts that his majesty made to achieve Yemeni reconciliation and support the unanimous signing of the document of accord by key Yemeni figures, bodies, and parties.

The letter emphasized that the EC looks forward to continued efforts by his majesty to implement and turn into tangible reality the articles of the Yemeni accord document in order to safeguard Yemen's unity and consolidate its democratic march in an atmosphere of security and stability.

The Greek foreign minister also handed his majesty a letter from the Greek prime minister. The letter contained Papandreou's admiration of the distinguished and responsible role that His Majesty King Husayn has played for many years in terms of maintaining security and stability in the Middle East. The letter also contained the appreciation by Papandreou and his government for his majesty's continued efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region based on international legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions.

In his letter to King Husayn, Papandreou stressed his appreciation and admiration for the great success that his majesty achieved by reconciling the disputing Yemeni parties, holding the signing the document of accord, and beginning the implementation of its articles out of his care for Yemen's unity and achievements and in order to protect its security and stability.

The letter also stressed the deep Jordanian-Greek relations and the need to consolidate and promote them to serve the interests of both friendly peoples.

Papandreou's letter also pointed to the distinguished efforts his majesty is making to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the region. The letter emphasized that these efforts are appreciated by the Greek Government.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Marwan al-Qasim, his majesty the king's political adviser; Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Amjad al-Majali, the Jordanian ambassador to Greece. It was also attended by the Greek Foreign Ministry secretary general, the Greek ambassador in Amman, and the EC ambassador in Amman.

Departs Amman

JN0303204094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Karolos Papoulias, Greek foreign minister and chairman of the EC Council of Ministers, left Amman this evening following a two-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, he met with His Majesty King Husayn and several senior Jordanian officials.

In press statements, Papoulias said that the EC understands His Majesty King Husayn's great role, and fully understands both Jordan's needs and the necessity of extending aid to it after it has sustained damages as a result of the Gulf war and the inspections in the port of al-'Aqabah.

Papoulias added that he conveyed to King Husayn a letter of thanks and appreciation from the EC for his majesty's role in the reconciliation among Yemeni leaders. Asked about the possibility of requesting the EC to disarm the Israeli settlers in the occupied Arab territories, Papoulias said: There is a joint declaration by the EC. We believe we can push this request forward. He noted that an appropriate atmosphere should be created to resume the peace negotiations by pooling various efforts.

Papoulias said that after ending his regional tour on Sunday, he will head for Brussels to meet with his EC colleagues in order to brief them on the outcome of his tour. He expressed hope that the EC will take new initiatives on the region in order to promote the peace process.

Asked whether it is possible to convince Israel to allow the deployment of international troops in the occupied Arab territories to protect the civilians there, Papoulias said: We will seriously discuss this problem. An alternative solution would be to send international observers, so we can secure the resumption of the peace negotiations and dialogue. We will also discuss various ways and means to guarantee security for the Palestinians.

Papoulias was seen off at Amman airport by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs; the Jordanian ambassador to Greece; and the Greek ambassador in Amman.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Vatican

JN0303150194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Vatican have agreed to establish full diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level out of their desire to enhance the friendly relations between them.

A communique on the establishment of the diplomatic relations was issued in both Amman and the Vatican at noon today.

House Denounces Lebanese Church Bombing

JN0303175094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The House of Representatives has denounced the criminal bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najah church in fraternal Lebanon. In a statement, the House said that it views the killing of innocent people and attacks on places of worship as criminal acts that are a disgrace to human civilization. These acts also violate all international norms, laws, and legitimacy, the statement noted.

At the same time, the House emphasized that this criminal incident indicates that the tampering and criminal hands do not want fraternal Lebanon to restore its well-being and stability, the statement said. Just as in the case of the holy Ibrahimi Mosque, these hands wanted Lebanon to be an arena for destruction and bloodshed. This confirms that the sinful hands, which committed the massacre at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque, were the same hands that targeted the lives of innocent people at the Sayyidat al-Najah church, and that they only carried out this act to overshadow the massacre they committed in Hebron, the statement noted.

Greetings to the Lebanese Government and people, and may God preserve Lebanon as an oasis of security and safety and as a supporter of its Arab nation, the statement added.

Labor Minister Urges ILO To Implement Decisions

JN0303200594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Labor Minister Khalid al-Ghizawi has chaired a meeting comprising an International Labor Organization [ILO] fact-finding team and representatives of the Royal Committee for Jerusalem Affairs, the Palestinian Affairs Department, the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Trade Union Federation, and the Union of the Chambers of Commerce at the meetings hall in the Ministry of Labor.

During the meeting, the labor minister delivered a statement urging the ILO to implement the decisions made by the international labor conferences in 1974 and 1980. These decisions call for extending all forms of aid to the Palestinian people and their labor forces in order to support their steadfastness on their land. [passage omitted]

Minister al-Ghizawi noted the inhumane policy that Israel is pursuing in the occupied Arab territories. He said: We in Jordan only recognize the sovereignty of God Almighty over the Islamic holy places. He also pointed to Israel's policy, which aims to Judaize Jerusalem, and, consequently, complete the greater Jerusalem project. The minister added that Jordan condemns and vehemently denounces all forms of Judaization, and urges the international bodies to intervene in order to protect the mosques and churches, so that they will be outside the framework of the bloody conflict.

He said that Jordan also demands a halt to the building of Israeli settlements, the disarming of the settlers, and a total transfer of the settlers from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

'Islamic Battalions': U.S. Has 48 Hours To Leave

NC0403113794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1122 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] A group calling itself the Islamic Battalions [al-kata'ib al-islamiyah] has threatened revenge for the martyrs of Palestine. The group said that hardline Islamists in Egypt will begin to attack the Americans and Israelis.

Carrying the report, REUTER said that the group made the threat in a statement seemingly faxed from Beirut. The statement gave the Americans in Egypt 48 hours to leave the country. The statement said: We warn every American in Egypt that he will be a target for the Islamist mujahidin in the country.

The group claimed responsibility for a device exploding in front of the Egyptian American Bank in Cairo last night.

The Islamic Group in Egypt earlier claimed responsibility for the same explosion as well as for recent attacks against banks and policemen in Egypt.

Continued Commentaries, Reports on Church Bombing

Syrian Position is 'Main Question'

PM0203120994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Feb 94 p15

[Khayrallah Khayrallah article: "Between Two Massacres"]

[Text] At first glance, one cannot but link the Zuq Mikha'il church massacre in Lebanon to the al-Ibrahimi mosque massacre in Hebron committed by a Jewish "fundamentalist" with the clear participation of others who believe that there is no possibility of coexistence between the peoples of the region and that there is only room for extremism, extremists, and continuation of violence.

Of course, the timing of the church explosion appeared to be the best service to Israel because the crime committed in Lebanon provided the best evidence that there are "extremists" everywhere and that the ugly act committed against the worshippers in Hebron was part of the wider framework of imbalance in the region, a condition which made the peace process possible just as it made those opposed to the process resort to exceptional ways of fighting it. And so in the end it would appear that violence and terrorism are features of a general condition prevailing in the region, that what happened at the al-Ibrahimi mosque was an integral part of that condition, and that Israel itself will have to face the problem of its "fundamentalism" just as in the case of a good number of states in the region such as Algeria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt.

Such an argument appears to be solid and logical, but what is required is an understanding of the Lebanese situation, which must be viewed from a special angle because that small country is in the process of rebuilding itself after its government moved it out of the intensive care unit to pave the way for laying the foundations of a state and institutions that would take it healthily to the year 2000 and beyond. Lebanon is currently in labor. The Zuq Mikha'il church explosion cannot be isolated from the attempt to assassinate Christian clergy on their way to the al-Balamand monastery, the explosion at the Phalangist headquarters in al-Sayfi in the heart of Beirut on new year's eve last year, or the sectarian leaflets distributed at the time and the explosions which accompanied that in stores in various areas. All that was in the context of undermining the process of redrafting an integral national plan for Lebanon taking into consideration the fact that there is a need to rectify matters, particularly the injustice inflicted on the Christians in general after they were dragged into a "suicidal" plan and then into boycotting the latest parliamentary elections. That does not mean that other parties, such as Syria, do not bear any responsibility in the context of settling scores with certain leaderships to the point of deliberately humiliating them even if that means making a large number of Lebanese people feel that they are the "oppressed" group indeed.

It is easy to accuse Israel of being the party behind the church explosion to divert attention from the al-Ibrahimi mosque massacre, but it is difficult to admit that certain groups in Lebanon, while pretending to be fighting Israel, actually in practice serve the policy of the Jewish state. They do so by seeking to sabotage the national basic program being implemented by the Lebanese Government at all levels beginning with the reconstruction of Beirut and reviving it as a civilized city in which people enjoy living together, not just a place of coexistence between the Lebanese themselves and Arab brothers and foreigners, and by pursuing a policy of terrorizing the Christians to block any attempt to restore political balance in the country.

The main question remains: What is the position of the Syrian leadership on everything happening in Lebanon? Can Damascus continue to play the game of maintaining certain balances in the country through its ability to use "the extremists" and their practices in the framework of its regional policy? Finally, the church explosion must be seen as a blow to Syrian security in Lebanon. What will Damascus do? Will it continue to play the waiting game knowing that any weakening of Lebanon is ultimately a weakening of Syria and its ability to face Israel with a minimum degree of Arab coordination.

Judge Appointed To Investigate

NC0403123194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] The Higher Judicial Council held a meeting under Judge Philip Khayrallah in al-Yarzah today [Defense

Ministry's premises] to evaluate the findings of the security departments concerning the church massacre. Judge Nasri Lahhud, government-appointee to the military court; Judge Tarabay Rahmah, first attorney general for Mount Lebanon; and Riyad Tai'i, first military investigation judge; attended a part of the meeting.

After deliberations into the Sayyidat al-Najat Church massacre and reviewing new information, which the conferees unanimously decided to keep secret, the Higher Judicial Council approved a proposal by Justice Minister Bahij Tabbarah to appoint former Prosecutor General Judge Joseph Furayhah as investigating judge into the explosion.

Column Warns of Inter-Palestinian Fighting

NC0303174694 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 24 Feb 94 p 18

["In Broad Daylight" column by Rajih al-Khuri: "The Massacre"]

[Text] Israel has brought together the necessary elements and created the right possibilities for the "Palestinian massacre."

It is not possible to explain in any other way the order the Israeli Army received to prepare for speedy withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

Despite the progress the negotiations are making between the Palestinian and Israeli committees, even if on the "basis of crumbs" which constitutes a prominent element in the strategy of Israeli negotiation, the rush to evacuate Gaza and Jericho before the set date of 13 April is nothing less than a time-bomb the Israelis are planting under the feet of the PLO and Hamas.

Before discussing the reasons behind this upcoming massacre, we need to recall the many Israeli voices that during the past two years have not stopped demanding that the ball of fire be thrown in the lap of the Palestinians and the occasional official calls for evacuating the terrorist mire in reference to the Gaza Strip, where the stone revolution has not abated.

This was before reaching the autonomy agreement on 13 April 1993, and before the agreement and the detailed talks it stipulates between the two sides reached the point of no return, as Shim'on Peres says.

And now, there is no escape from moving forward, even if the road is a field of knives, at least for Yasir 'Arafat who cannot go backwards even though he is shaking politically every time he makes progress.

He is a prisoner of this iron wager that is imposed by the talks. It has led not only to denuding him of all the slogans, papers, and maneuvers, but also of his own skin, not to mention his head.

What does he have in hand other than the "autonomy" agreement which can barely be seen with the naked eye, especially since the area of Gaza and Jericho that will come under the autonomy is no bigger than the Fatah-land 'Arafat reigned over in Lebanon, and especially since his authority in that area, which constitutes an amplified form of the Ansar detention camp, is no more than the authority of a taxi driver from Sabra during the days of "the Palestinian mandate" over Sabra camp.

It is autonomy on paper only. In practice, a reading of the agreement's articles regarding the crossings for example, is enough for a person entering Gaza and Jericho to realize that the Hebrew stamps have been imprinted not only on his passport, but on his forehead, and perhaps even his brain.

Therefore, what can 'Arafat offer the Hamas people, the rejectionists, the extremists, and those calling for jihad? What can he tell them? What can he promise them for the future, when he has nothing but this present? How will he keep the peace, with whom, and on what basis?

It is clear that it is too early for Rabin's government to call on 'Arafat to bear his responsibilities in combating terrorism as soon as possible. The day before yesterday, Israeli radio said that "Palestinian policemen" should be deployed in the Gaza Strip as a vanguard force at the end of this week.

We need to remember that pistols have taken the place of batons in the hands of the autonomy police as the result of a strong request from Shim'on Peres, since clubs are not enough to confront the Islamic resistance movement.

While the PLO is paying attention to training and preparing its policemen, Israel was setting the bloody stage with great care. Yasir 'Arafat himself a few days ago protested "that a terrible trade in arms is taking place under the supervision of Israeli forces in Gaza and Jericho. I believe that this has been seriously planned. They know that these weapons will not be used against them after they withdraw. So, who will they be used against? It is a very dangerous game if they are planning to create a new Afghanistan among the Palestinians."

The issue does not need 'Arafat's testimony, nor does it need the publicly declared fears that were expressed by Abu-'Ali Shahin, the official responsible for the Gaza Strip, who said that the pro-Likud Shin Bet is drowning the people with weapons and plotting to start a civil war among the Palestinians.

The issue does not need all these testimonies. It needs sane and careful thinking, not because the Palestinians do not have anything but this single chance to prove their competence, even within the framework of the autonomy and under the Israeli microscope, but because the Palestinian massacre will return Gaza and Jericho to Israeli rule upon a request from the Palestinians themselves. At this point, there are many lessons the residents of Gaza and Jericho need to learn.

They need to learn first for their own sakes, and maybe for the sake of others. This is because negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks could turn a full and empty circle waiting for what will happen to the Palestinians.

If things continue this way, the "full partner" in the peace process will naturally be the good successor of President Bill Clinton.

And may God help everyone.

Al-Shar' Discusses Situation With PLO's Qaddumi

JN0303192694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, this evening. PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Ghunaym and PLO representative in Damascus Mahmud al-Khalidi attended the meeting.

Talks dealt with the situation in the region and the occupied Arab territories in the wake of the massacre the Israelis perpetrated in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron and its impact on the peace process.

AL-BA'TH Urges 'Balanced' European Role in Peace Process

JN2502135194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Feb 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial today, AL-BA'TH says: One can deduce from the Israeli conduct that there is a new attempt not only to circumvent the results of the Geneva summit, but also to circumvent the U.S. role and all the international efforts seeking to achieve the just and comprehensive peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH stresses the importance of having a balanced and effective European role in the peace process. However, the paper warns that the Israelis' emphasis on the Europeans, from the economic viewpoint, seeks to market the Oslo Agreement, in which some people found an opportunity to enter the region. The paper says: This view is based on a host of unfounded illusions, which will harm principally the peace process and the Europeans themselves, in view of their interests in the region and strong ties with the Arab states. The paper wonders: Will the European Community agree to serve as a bridge on which Rabin can cross to hamper the peace process?

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: Israel has on more than one occasion tried to use the European role to its advantage. But that role remained balanced to some extent over the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict. With Rabin's moves, which precede his visit to Washington, this role should not lose its balance because the wager on the Oslo Agreement will fail.

Deputies Criticize Turkey's 'Undeclared War' Against Kurds

PM0303143594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Thirty Syrian Deputies Call on Turkey To Stop War Against Kurds"]

[Text] Damascus—In a significant development, Syrian People's Assembly members have called on Ankara to stop its military operations against the Kurds in Turkish Kurdistan. The deputies, about 30 of them, believe that the Turkish Army is waging an undeclared war on the Kurdish people by burning and destroying their towns and villages. In a memorandum, a copy of which was obtained by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the deputies said that the Turkish special forces were "hunting, persecuting, and killing Kurdish patriots," and that "successive Turkish governments since the Ottoman reign have continuously ignored the existence of the Kurdish people in a foolish policy that has failed to obliterate the Kurdish national identity."

The Syrian deputies also called on the Turkish Government to work for a just and peaceful solution to the issue of the Kurdish and Turkish peoples and establish links of coexistence between them. The Syrian parliamentarians accused the Turkish Government of imposing a terrorist fait accompli in the Kurdish areas.

The Syrian deputies addressed their memorandum to Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, National Assembly Speaker Husamettin Cindoruk, and Prime Minister Tansu Ciller. It was handed to the Turkish ambassador in Damascus at the embassy premises. In that memorandum, the deputies said that reports carried by news agencies and the Turkish media about the military operations carried out by the Turkish Army in the east and southeast of Turkey (Kurdistan) confirm that "what the Army is doing is tantamount to an undeclared war against the Kurdish people and that the police and gendarmerie forces are imposing an unbearable situation of terror in the Kurdish areas where patriotic and social figures are liquidated in broad daylight in public."

The memorandum added that "this chauvinistic military and political campaign by the Turkish Government is producing terrifying results for the Kurdish population, a matter which arouses extreme concern among members of the Syrian People's Assembly and all peace- and justice-loving people. It runs contrary to the principles of democracy and human rights which Turkish officials claim to respect and abide by."

The memorandum urged Turkey to stop the military operations and work for a peaceful solution because that would save it money and blood and would enhance the links of coexistence between the two peoples, and it would also place Turkey among the civilized states and strengthen its role and position in the eyes of the world public opinion.

The deputies added: "The only way to resolve peoples' issues is dialogue and mutual understanding on the basis of recognition of the national rights of the oppressed people."

It is worth noting that Syrian-Turkish relations often passed through political crises because of the position of the Kurdish fighters and the water issue which is still pending between the two countries. Turkey has always hinted at using the water weapon because of what Turkey claims to be Syrian support for the fighters of the Kurkish Workers Party, but Syria has repeatedly and categorically denied these charges.

In their official statements, however, the two countries reaffirm their satisfaction with the rapid and positive development of their relations and their intention to further expand these relations in all fields. The two sides have also expressed satisfaction with the positive developments over the past months regarding security issues pertaining to the long borders between them, as a result of the spirit of cooperation which has been confirmed and enhanced by the exchange of visits between the interior and foreign ministers of the two countries during which it was reaffirmed that any activity on the territory of either of them harmful to the security of that country would not be allowed.

Commentary on Need for ‘Decisive International Stand’

JN0403153094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said the carnage in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron could be repeated elsewhere. Observers took this statement as an implicit threat to the Palestinian people whose intifadah has flared up and encompassed all cities, villages, and camps of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and extended even to the 1948-occupied territories.

The truth is that the Israeli prime minister is just as responsible for the horrendous massacre as the Zionist settlers who carried out the treacherous attack. Rabin is the one who armed the settlers and gave them a free hand to commit aggression in the occupied territories. He also refused, after the massacre, to take deterrent measures to check the settlers' activities and disarm them. Instead of punishing the war criminals and bloody killers, he imposed a collective punishment on the entire Palestinian people, subjected all of the occupied territories to military siege, and instructed the occupation troops to shoot indiscriminately. As a consequence, more than 20 martyrs from our Arab people have fallen in the wake of the savage massacre. Dozens more were wounded. The list is increasing everyday, and suppression is on the rise.

Rabin is indeed preparing for further massacres, since he insists on incorporating the Zionist extremist Tzomet Party into the government coalition and letting the well-known terrorist and bloody leader of the Tzomet Party, Refa'el Eytan, take over the Police Ministry.

Eytan is one of the most extremist Zionists. He is the one who advocated mass expulsions of the Arabs and committing savage massacres against them to drive them to emigrate immediately. Therefore, the international community should take Rabin's threats seriously and provide protection for the Palestinian people in line with the Geneva Conventions and international charters and principles.

By issuing such threats and making them a reality, Rabin not only seeks to severely harm the Palestinian people, but also to deliver a fatal blow to the Middle East peace process, entrench occupation, and pursue schemes to Judaize the occupied Arab territories and plant them with settlements.

We do not believe any of the influential parties on the Security Council are unaware that the massacre has done great damage to the peace process and that any new massacre will undermine the peace process in its entirety. We also do not believe that a single Security Council member is unaware that Zionist settlers constitute a stumbling block to the achievement of peace. A just and comprehensive solution in the Middle East is impossible without the return of all the occupied Arab territories, the evacuation of the settlers, and the Palestinian people's guaranteed right to exercise their national rights, foremost being their right to self- determination.

The Ibrahimi Mosque massacre has again highlighted certain facts that some people have forgotten or chosen to disregard. One of these facts is that peace is impossible under occupation and cannot coexist with settlement activity. Therefore, the Security Council, which is discussing the question of this region, is asked to assert the need for a full Israeli withdrawal and for the evacuation the settlers and the dismantling of the settlements in line with international resolutions. These resolutions have always rejected occupation, the acquisition of territory by force, settlement activity, and Judaization of the land.

Today, peace depends on a decisive international stand and true international credibility. Current and past events have shown that the international community cannot continue to disregard the reality of Zionist occupation and give the criminal hand of Zionism a free rein in the occupied territories. This would be an outright violation of international charters and UN principles and would undermine the peace process that has so far drowned in Arab blood shed at the hands of Israel, its troops, and settlers.

The Arabs, who responded to the U.S. peace initiative and accommodated all Security Council resolutions, have only reaped bitterness and frustration. Such a situation is no longer acceptable by Arab governments or by the Arab man in the street. Unless effective international measures are taken to implement the Security Council resolutions, effect the return the occupied Arab territories, and ensure the liberation of the Palestinian people from Zionist terrorism and oppression, the peace process is liable to collapse into oblivion.

Afghanistan

Rabbani-Hekmatyar Clashes Continue in Kabul

LD0303172094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Exchange of rocket and heavy weapons fire between the forces of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar shook Kabul once again today.

According to a report from Kabul, quoting Afghan Defense Ministry sources, the attacks took place in eastern areas of Kabul. In addition to inflicting heavy casualties and damage, the attacks caused some damage to the television station. The sources added: Hekmatyar forces were trying to seize the Pacha Bridge and eastern areas of Kabul, but government forces repelled them.

The attacks come at a time when various local commanders are trying to establish a cease-fire. [passage omitted]

Rabbani Receives Message From Iranian Counterpart

LD0303193794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Mar 94

["Message of gratitude" to President Borhanoddin Rabbani from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani; date not given]

[Text] I received with great pleasure your excellency's message of congratulation on the occasion of the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. We laid the foundation of the new Islamic regime on the basis of the strong faith of our nation and on the leadership of Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni—the blessing of God be upon him—as well as on welfare, security, peace, health, and a life coupled with the spirituality of mankind. We have suffered many hardships in this respect. After a 15-year struggle, we now continue, more than in the past, our human and Islamic efforts in the Islamic Republic regime, and we have painted a very bright and dignified future. It is hoped that the two countries relations will expand further in the interest of the two nations. Expressing gratitude for the message sent by you, I wish from God, glorious is his glory, the success and health of your excellency and the prosperity of the Muslim Afghan nation.

Roundtable on Peace Proposals Held in Kabul

LD0303211394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] At the initiative of the special peace commission of the cabinet of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, a roundtable was convened this afternoon. According to a radio and television correspondent's report, the roundtable for discussion and exchange of views on different peace proposals began with the recitation of some Koranic verses by Mawlawi Seyyed Ahmad Hashemi, president of the Peace and Islamic Fraternity Council. An opening speech was then delivered by esteemed Seyyed Mohammed 'Ali Javid, minister of planning and president of the cabinet's peace commission. In addition to the personalities and representatives of various jihadi organizations, the roundtable participants included Lieutenant General Mir Anjamoddin, commander of air and air defense forces; and esteemed Abdol Fatah Nazir, president of the Servants of Peace Association. During the roundtable, different participants discussed various peace proposals and assessed suggested proposals. The following declaration was presented:

1. Islamic activities that are conducted by various peace groups are necessary and should be intensified.

2. It is necessary for suggested proposals to be realized in order to establish a unity of views and actions among peace groups.

3. It is necessary for a delegation to be elected from the society of the Islamic groups and for them to start work after a quorum is formed in order to implement and coordinate the suggested proposals.

4. It is necessary for the effectiveness of peace proposals that a joint association be established from representative delegations of various Islamic teams and for their work programs to be revived.

5. All social and jihadi forces of Afghanistan are asked to support good and sensible proposals.

India

Rocket Attack Reportedly Carried Out in Kashmir

BK0203153894 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, mojahedin carried out a rocket attack on Brigade Headquarters at Kashmir Ghati in Punch area, causing heavy losses to the Indian forces. Reports say mojahedin also attacked military targets in various localities of Srinagar. Two Indian soldiers were killed in a grenade attack in Bata Kadal.

Meanwhile, another 16 Kashmiris were martyred in clashes and due to indiscriminate firing by Indian troops. A shootout between mojahedin and the Indian troops was reported from Wirk in Doda area. Mojahedin claimed that a number of Indian troops were killed and wounded in the clash.

Police Foil 'Conspiracy' by 'Pakistan-Trained Militants'

BK0403093194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] Delhi police have arrested six persons and foiled a well-planned conspiracy for creating widespread disturbances in India by Pakistan-trained militants. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, the city police commissioner, Mr. N.B. Kaushal, disclosed that they had planned to create disturbances, attack religious places, and use poison. He said it is for the first time that Pakistan used its own nationals for such operations who are trained and experienced in guerrilla warfare and insurgency. Sixteen kg of explosives, detonators, hand grenades, and Pakistani passports were seized from the arrested persons who belong to the Islamic Inqilabi Mahaz [Revolutionary Front]. Two sets of floppies were also seized from the terrorists, who were planning to prepare a computer. Cases against them have been registered, and they were remanded to police custody.

Minister Asks U.S. To 'Stop Meddling' in Affairs

BK0403093794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] The home minister has reiterated that nobody can question the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India. Mr. S.B. Chavan also said that Washington should get its facts clear and should stop meddling in the internal affairs of the country. He told the Rajya Sabha today during the zero hour that he stands by his statement on the subject made in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. Mr. Chavan pointed out that it was India which moved the United Nations as a complainant following the naked aggression of Pakistan on Kashmir.

Singh Discusses Pakistani Resolution With Western Envoys

BK0303145594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] India has sought closer cooperation of the European Union and the United States in dealing with Pakistan's resolution on Kashmir at the UN Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva. The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, told the envoys of the European troika and the U.S. charge d' affaires in New Delhi today that neither the letter nor the spirit of the Pakistan resolution is acceptable to New Delhi. It will also not help in improving the situation in Jammu and Kashmir as it is the direct result of the Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. He asked them to convey India's position on the Pakistan resolution and hoped that the delegations of these countries will work closely with the Indian delegation in Geneva. The meeting was held at the request of the envoys.

Poland's Walesa, Delegation Arrive for Talks

Delegation Includes Foreign Minister

BK0203160594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] President Lech Walesa of Poland arrived in New Delhi a short while ago on a week-long visit to India. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation, including his foreign minister and minister of industry and trade. During his stay, President Walesa will hold discussions with the president, the vice president, and the prime minister. The detailed talks to further strengthen bilateral ties are slated for Friday [4 March].

Mr. Lech Walesa, a recipient to the Nobel Peace Prize, has also been honored with several other international awards for his fight for social justice. Mr. Walesa came to limelight in the 1980's as the chairman of the independent Solidarity trade union.

Sharma Receives Walesa

BK0303095094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] India has expressed willingness to cooperate with Poland in a manner beneficial to both the countries. This was stated by the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, when the visiting president of Poland, Mr. Lech Walesa, called on him at Rashtrapati Bhavan today. During their 45-minute meeting, Mr. Walesa sought India's participation in the changeover to market economy in his country. Mr. Walesa said this can be done through cooperation in the industrial and technological spheres. Besides bilateral matters, the two leaders also exchanged views on various regional and international issues, including recent developments pertaining to security in Europe.

Earlier, the president of Poland, Mr. Lech Walesa, was accorded a warm ceremonial reception on his state visit to India. The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and his cabinet colleagues were present on the occasion at the Rashtrapati Bhavan this morning. Mr. Walesa is accompanied by his wife, Mrs. (Danuta), and a high-level delegation, including the foreign minister and minister for industry and trade. Talking to newsmen, Mr. Lech Walesa said that after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the world is looking for new solutions. Mr. Walesa said that his country has a lot to learn from the great traditions of India. He said there are a number of areas in which bilateral cooperation can be enhanced.

Foreign Ministers Meet

BK0303151194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Poland today assured India that it will not support Pakistan's resolution on Kashmir at the UN Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva. The visiting Polish foreign minister, Mr. (Andrzej Olechowski), gave this assurance in his talks with the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, in New Delhi. The Polish foreign minister said his country gives special emphasis to its relations with India and wants to strengthen the economic ties.

Mr. Dinesh Singh briefed him about Pakistan's attempt to internationalize the Kashmir issue under the guise of raising human rights issue. Pakistan's own record in this area is abysmal. Mr. Dinesh Singh said the political process in Jammu and Kashmir can easily begin if Pakistan stops aiding and abetting terrorism in the state.

Both also discussed the ongoing reforms in the UN system and called for making it more democratic.

Sharma Hosts Banquet for Walesa

BK0403032894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Mar 94

[Text] India and Poland have called for further strengthening economic cooperation in the wake of changes in both the countries. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Polish president, Mr. Lech Walesa, in New Delhi last night, President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, said a sense of identity and affinity marks the multi-dimensional growth of ties between the two countries. Describing Mr. Walesa's personal contribution to Polish revolution as significant, Dr. Sharma said the dramatic changes in Poland over the last decade acted as an important catalyst in ending the Cold War and fundamentally transforming international relations.

Reciprocating the sentiments, Mr. Walesa lauded India's efforts toward ending the arms race and eliminating the threat of nuclear warfare. Turning to the economic front, Mr Walesa said there is great scope for increasing trade between the two countries and the potential in both the countries should be fully exploited.

The Polish president also met the vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, and stressed the need to project Mahatma Gandhi's ideas and values for shaping the new world order.

Naval Exercises Conducted With Russian Ships

BK0203133894 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 21 Feb 94 p 32

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 20 (UNI)—Indian and Russian Naval ships conducted a two-day exercise during a goodwill visit by three Russian ships to Bombay this week.

The exercise was conducted between Indian Naval ships 'Ganga' a frigate, and Ranvir, a destroyer, and Russian ship Admiral Vinogradov, an anti-submarine destroyer.

Such bilateral exercises have been undertaken by the Indian navy in the past also with warships of the Indian Ocean Littoral States and friendly countries, official sources today said.

The other Russian ships included a landing ship L. Vilkov and a merchant tanker V. Kolechitskiy.

Iran

Continued Reports, Commentaries on Hebron Incident

'Arafat 'Cooperation' With Israel, U.S. Cited

NC0403100294 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 26 Feb 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Peace in Palestine Still a Mirage"]

[Text] The latest hope for peace in Palestine was shattered yesterday when a "lone" Israeli gunman sprayed Muslim worshippers at the tomb of the Patriarch in Hebron killing more than 30 Palestinians and injuring dozens more.

Israeli security force also did their bit by killing at least another 18 Palestinians and wounding many more when they fired into the crowds gathered at hospitals to donate blood and show support for their fellow countrymen.

The U.S.-brokered agreement between the Zionists and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for an autonomous Palestinian administration in Gaza and Jericho, is now christened in blood. The PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat issued a statement saying the massacre could have "very serious fallout... at all levels," and his organization declared a 3-day strike in Gaza in memory of the dead.

'Arafat is not the only party to blame for this massacre, nevertheless he must take the major share of responsibility for this tragedy because his cooperation with the Zionist entity and its American handlers gave some Palestinians the impression that the usurper Zionists could be trusted and that peace may be achieved simply by taking the Zionists and the Americans on face falue.

Throughout their 45 years of occupying Palestine, the Israelis have claimed that their security agencies are the best in the world and have often criticized other countries' security systems. It would take a great deal of faith to believe that this massacre was purely a coincidence and the work of a "lone" crazed Jewish fanatic. Hopefully, later investigations will clarify questions regarding the slow response of the Zionists to this massacre, as well as the reason why nearly 20 more unarmed Palestinians were slaughtered by Israel's security officers.

Israel is just buying time until its lobby in U.S. Congress can once again convince congressmen of Israel's strategic value to America. After the fall of Communism the American Israel Political Action Committee (AIPAC) lost some credibility among Americans. AIPAC's perennial argument that Israel, as the "only democracy in the region," and as a bastion of anti-Islamic ideology in Muslim Middle East is no longer valid due to the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the gradual realization by the U.S. that Islam can not be defeated by Israeli conspiracies and lies.

It is for the people of Palestine to draw their own conclusions from this latest Zionist atrocity. But logic, common sense, and the past behavior of Zionists tell us that the Israelis, despite their peaceful utterances, have no desire for peace.

Adviser Views Effect on Talks

LD0303201694 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1600 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Interview with Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by an unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 3 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Greetings, dear listeners. I hope you are well. As you know, last Friday the Zionists attacked the shrine of his holiness Abraham, peace be upon him, and martyred a number of fasting Muslim Palestinians who were saying their prayers. The subject of this program is to investigate the dimensions of this great catastrophe. His excellency Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani is the esteemed guest of this program. During the course of this program, we will benefit from his views. [passage omitted]

As my last question, at the beginning of our discussion, you referred to countries such as Lebanon or Syria. What will be the external effects of the massacre on Arab countries, such as the countries you mentioned or on Jordan—in view of the fact that those countries have announced that they will not take part in the peace talks?

[Larijani] In my view, the first repercussion will come from inside. 'Arafat has completely lost his credibility for the talks. On one level, this means that all the peace talks have been delivered such a blow that, in my view, they cannot be revived. Of course, it is possible that they may hold two or three meetings and such like. However, to Israel the suppression of the intifadah is the precondition for any peace. Therefore, peace talks suffered a major defeat as a whole, the intensity of which was not predicted by any of the countries that took part in the peace talks. The Islamic Republic was the only country that rejected the talks from the start and predicted their failure.

I believe that a much stronger resistance has started against the peace talks throughout the Islamic world. It is clear that this resistance will influence the political leaders. Perhaps, if the political leaders of the Islamic world pay attention, this is the best opportunity to at least pay careful attention for once to the basic issue of peace and security instead of to all the lies that have been spoken about peace. The real basis of this peace and security will be to change the regime in the occupied territories. The regime is, in essence, an illegal, racist, and aggressive regime.

[Correspondent] And against human rights?

[Larijani] Yes, and against human rights. It has the worst record as a racist country, even when compared to the regimes of South Africa or the former Zimbabwe. Therefore, let us talk about the real, basic issue. Let us talk about a regime in which Muslims, Christian, and Jews all live freely and enjoy equal civil rights. Such a new regime will be the cure for the present problems. No peace will be possible without it. I believe that, under present conditions, the Islamic Republic—while continuing its strong support on the international scene for Islamic movements in the occupied territories—should also present new ideas for the solution of the problems. Those ideas should also be based on the evolution of a regime—the changing of the present aggressive regime to a legal regime that ensures equal rights for all. If that idea is realized, I believe that it would be one of the best fruits of the Islamic resistance for the Muslims, for Christians, and even in the future for the Jews. This will be a very important outcome.

[Correspondent] Once again, I thank you for your participation in this program.

[Larijani] Thank you.

Further Commentary

NC0303220094 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Feb 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Black Friday—A Harbinger of More To Come"]

[Text] The racist, usurper Zionist regime allowed the massacre of more than 60 fasting Palestinian worshippers at the al-Khalil [Hebron] mosque and on the streets of Hebron last Friday. This is neither the first of such Zionist atrocities nor will it be the last to be committed by the hated and anti-Islamic savages in Tel Aviv.

In nearly 50 years of occupation of Muslim Palestine, international organizations, charged with safeguarding the security and territorial integrity of smaller countries, have turned a deaf ear to this injustice.

The illegal Jewish settlements populated by recent Russian and East European immigrants are ripe for physical violence because of social, religious, and cultural incompatibility of the Zionists with the indigenous Palestinian population. It was this incompatibility that lead to the Black Friday massacre of February 25.

Israel's refusal to abide by UN resolutions 242 and 338, and its subsequent settling of Russian and East European Jews in Arab lands created a common belief among the Zionist population that they can get away not only with stealing Palestine but also with the mass murder of Palestinian Muslims.

The selective and totally biased way in which the UN implements its own resolutions regarding Palestine is weighing heavily on the world's conscience, while the United States, as Israel's military supplier and financial supporter, bears the major share of guilt for Palestine's miseries as well as for this latest Zionist savagery.

The United States has been trying to create for itself the image of an honest broker in the Arab-Israeli conflict. America has been trying to convey to the Muslim world that its interest in brokering peace in the Middle East is based purely on humanitarian motives and is free of any political and financial considerations. But, the recent history of U.S. and Western European mediation in this conflict has proven that the West only acts when it is assured that the consequences of its actions are not against Israel or Western interests.

Transplanting a mostly Eastern European Jewish community to the heart of Muslim Middle East in 1948 was done by the UN under orders from the United States without any regard for the rights of the indigenous people of Palestine.

Considering the continued indifference of the West to the plight of the Palestinians, the time has come for the world's Muslims to take the initiative and begin implementing independent measures to resolve this historical injustice.

The world Muslims, particularly the Palestinians, can use their own potentials and capabilities derived from Islam and its traditions to reject those leaders who still believe in making peace with the butchers of Tel Aviv, and remove the Israeli cancer from the body of Islamic Middle East.

Commentary on Efforts To Calm Palestinian Uprising

NC0303083494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] Despite the Zionist regime's futile efforts to calm down the Palestinian uprising, anti-Zionist demonstrations continue in the occupied territories. Since the massacre of fasting worshipers in the al-Khalil mosque, the Zionist regime has resorted to a policy of suppression and persuasion in a bid to limit reaction to the tragedy inside occupied Palestine. However, these policies have not yielded the results that Tel Aviv wished.

The Zionist regime's decision to release 500 more Palestinian political prisoners yesterday, as well as the disarming of some extremist Palestinian [as heard] groups and the payment of compensation to the families of the martyrs of the tragedy at the Ibrahimi shrine, are among the persuasive efforts that the Zionist regime has resorted to hoping to prevent the Palestinian Muslims from spreading the intifadah. The suppression of Palestinian demonstrators who were protesting the massacre of the worshipers in the Ibrahimi mosque, which has resulted in several deaths and injuries, are among the terrorist acts that the Zionist regime hoped would end the reactions to the recent tragedy.

Political analysts believe that the Zionist regime's policies of persuasion and suppression have not yielded the results that Tel Aviv wished but have further clarified the nature of this regime. This regime, which has claimed that it does not have even one political prisoner and that all prisoners are under criminal charges, has displayed contradictory behavior with the release of 1,300 Palestinian prisoners in the past few days. This step by the Zionist regime, with which it is trying to limit the wave of rage from the Palestinian Muslims, has revealed that the Zionist regime's allegations on Palestinian prisoners are not true, since according to the Zionist regime's penal code criminals cannot be released without approval from the cabinet.

Also, the Zionist regime's efforts to suppress the Palestinian demonstrators, which has resulted in hundreds of deaths and injuries, has only resulted in its disgrace. By massacring the Palestinian Muslims in the streets and alleys of the occupied territories, this regime, which stated that the tragedy at the shrine was perpetrated by an insane person, has revealed an aggressive nature that is not very different from that of the allegedly insane criminal.

Commentary Condemns 'Zionist Crimes' in 'Palestine'

LD0303141494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1052 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the Name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. One of the wonders of arrogant powers in justifying their worldwide plundering interests is the use of political concepts with various, and occasionally contradictory, meanings which create a convoluted and complex situation and paves the way for them to capitalize and misuse.

For example, when the expression war and peace loses its meaning in Somalia and western forces' invasion of Somalia is said to be to restore peace, within that context, war and peace would be difficult to appraise in any part of the world.

An expression which, more than war and peace, has lost its true meaning and is used in various, and sometimes contradictory, forms is the concept of human rights.

The best evidence of that fact is the present situation in occupied Palestine. Murder, assassination, breaking of limbs, arrest and torture of Palestinian combatants, and dozens of other inhuman acts are the daily achievements of Zionism, of which few are unaware. But, despite those terroristic activities, which take place officially and semi-officially, the violation of human rights in the region is not on the agenda of any organization defending human rights.

The deadly silence of international forums proclaiming to be defenders of human rights places a heavy onus on freedom-seeking people of the world, to perform their humanitarian duty and bring the oppressed cries of the Muslim people of Palestine to the world's ears.

Ruyvaran, Middle East analyst of the New Research Group, describes the situation in occupied Palestine and the international forums overlooking Zionist crimes.

He says:

Perhaps one could sum up that the Muslim people of Palestine are deprived of their right to live, let alone their other rights. Basically, the policies of the Zionist regime in the occupied territories are not even comparable to the racist policies of the apartheid system in South Africa.

In the occupied territories, in accordance with the planned policies of the Zionist regime, the people of Palestine are deprived of a large portion of their political, economic and social rights, and basically face unequal conditions in matters of education, hygiene and employment.

Not even once have the international organizations and forums objected to the policy of rendering the Muslim people of Palestine homeless and settling migrant Zionists in homes which used to belong to Palestinians. This is despite the fact that such a policy contravenes the fourth article of the Geneva Convention. Generally speaking, this policy entails the disruption of the demographic composition of Palestine, and this is an objective which as a whole constitutes one of the indisputable foundations of the Zionist process of thought.

Placing Palestinians in protected zones and preventing their movement in the occupied Palestine unless with the permission of the military governors, has in practice deprived the people of Palestine from enjoying equal opportunities in jobs, education, and health. This behavior can only be analyzed within the framework of the systematic and wholistic policies of the Zionists, the main objective of which is the political, economic, and scientific impoverishment of Palestinians.

Equally important, by training and arming the Zionist settlers on the one hand, and then on the other hand depriving the Palestinians from the right to defend themselves in that any of them who dares carry even knives and other non-firearms is punished, the Zionist regime has formed a kind of relationship between the Palestinians and the Zionist settlers which basically entails that any dispute is invariable resolved by coercion and the law of the jungle.

The tragedy of the massacre of fasting worshippers in the tomb of Abraham, even if one accepts the Zionist regime's claim that the crime was committed by an individual, was a natural outcome of the aforementioned official policies. So long as these policies remain in force, similar tragedies will unfortunately happen again.

Of course one must not overlook America's role amid all this. Although Washington was probably more informed than any other party about current developments in the occupied territories, but it made certain arrangements two years ago to put pressure on the UN General Assembly to rescind its resolution which equated Zionism with racism.

The International Human Rights Committee's turning a blind eye to that reality has thus far been an encouragement to the Zionist regime to pursue its policies through further violation of the rights of the Muslim Palestinian people. Maybe that is just the the reason why those international forums cannot be considered blameless in the atrocities that are daily happening in occupied Palestine. Mr. Mohammadi, from our country's foreign ministry, has this to say about the issue:

[Begin Mohammadi recording] Human rights and the Palestine issue is one of the United Nation's complicated issues. That is, on the one hand the Special Committee of 24 for Decolonization—which is one of the main UN General Assembly' committees—condemns Israel every year as a violator of human rights and on the other hand the UN Human Rights Commission fails to take any measures to prevent human right violations in the occupied territories. That can be interpreted in this way that the legal aspect of human rights differs from its political aspect when applied to various states. That is, wherever the political will of those powers which are at the top of the United Nations and international organizations is in line with a state and those powers are in agreement with such a state then the powers take no decisive and urgent action to prevent human right violation and are not even willing to issue any binding resolution. There human rights is merely confined to its legal aspect and is never used as a political weapon to discredit and isolate such states.

In the last half century the world public opinion has witnessed the violation of human rights—in its worst possible form—in the occupied territories. On the other hand it does not seem that anyone can remember that up till now any special envoy to have taken any action on human right violations in the occupied territories on behalf of the United Nations or the Human Rights Commission. Only on one occasion, when 400 Palestinians were expelled from their homeland, the UN Security Council adopted an advisory resolution saying the Palestinian should be returned to their homeland. And even that was implemented conditionally—given the occupiers method of approach to the resolution. That is, the occupiers decided how they were to return to their homeland.

Therefore we can draw this conclusion that those states which are supporters of the Qods occupying regime and are at the top of international organizations do not in anyway make use of the political aspect of human rights against the image and credibility of the Qods occupier regime and fail to adopt serious decisions and measures for human rights to be observed in the occupied territories. [end recording]

The political and discriminatory approach by world powers towards human rights issue and their use of it as a pressure lever to secure their own plundering interests distances the Human Rights Committee and Amnesty International Organization from their titles every day and renders them devoid of humanitarian objectives.

Reza'i Denies DPRK To Test Missiles in Country

NC0303194594 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES (INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY) in English 24 Feb 94 pp 1, 14

[Report by staff correspondent]

[Text] Tehran—Major General Mohsen Reza'i scoffed at Western media reports that claim Iran is for nuclear weapons saying "Political logic, morality, our own culture and above all the situation in today's world does not allow us to have such deadly weapons. [quotation marks as received]

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps head said, "Political wisdom asks us not to go for weapons which could cause devastation for humanity."

"Of course, we are for traditional weapons and that too just for self-defense...and that's all," he said.

The eight-year Iraqi imposed war is proof of the real nature of our combatants who never violated the internationally recognized norms concerning war Major Gen. Reza'i recalled.

He was referring to the Iraqi forces who left no stone unturned violating the basic tradition of war using chemical bombs against both civilians and military personnel. The Iraqi forces also frequently bombed purely civilians areas during their 1980-88 imposed war.

"That Iran is trying to acquire nuclear weapons...is just baseless rumor," Reza'i refuted.

Western media repeatedly say Iran will or has already provided the necessary facilities to Communist North Korea for testing missiles with ranges up to 1,000 kilometers. What is Reza'i's explanation?

"No, a firm no," Major Gen. Reza'i told the TEHRAN TIMES in an exclusive interview at his office.

"By now the entire world should know that Iran is very sensitive as far as our soil and military facilities are concerned and we will never allow others to use it...no matter how friendly 'others' are," he said referring to the friendly ties with North Korea.

"As long as I'm talking about the real nature of the Islamic combatants and the officials of the Islamic Republic, it will not be out of place to mention the Russian requests which Iran turned down without a second thought,: Reza'i, 41, said.

"Despite our animosity and enmity against the United States we rejected repeated requests from Moscow to deliver to them the F-14 fighter plane and the wire-guided anti-tank missile, TOW," he said.

He disclosed that even the U.S. through various channels tried to obtain a Soviet-made T-72 tank which we seized from the Ba'thist forces during the Iraqi-imposed war.

The United States once more received 'a firm no' from the Islamic Republic despite a number of tempting offers from the Pentagon, he said.

Maj. Gen. Reza'i, head the IRGC for the last 13 years, comes from Masjed Soleyman, Khuzestan Province.

In answer to another question, Reza'i said the Kuridish problem in Iraq is under our observation and our forces are ready to counter any sort of terrorist activities launched from there.

Referring to the agreement signed by Iran and Turkey he said "It has eased the situation."

He denounced Iraq for sending terrorists and taking undue advantage from the present situation in the region underlining the fact that that itself was a violation of the 1988 ceasefire and against the traditional practice of friendly neighbors.

Reza'i is married with five children and currently studying economics at the post-graduate level. He has a glorious record of revolutionary activities against the now defunct Shah's regime.

Commenting on the Persian Gulf he said, "The geographical situation of the waterway is such that the deep water is on Iran's side which enables the Islamic forces to keep alien warships under observation."

Without going into details he said there was a plot engineered by Britain, Israel and the United States designed to keep regional tensions high.

"I think," he said, "the plot proved to be a mouse trap for the United States.

"It's my view that no country should think that they can take undue advantage from the differences between Iran and another Persian Gulf country," he warned.

He pointed out that the Iraqi regime made the same mistake in 1980 and "we all know the consequences of that."

"I tell my friends in the UAE to listen to my advice as Iran wants to continue friendly relations with all the shaykhdoms there," Reza'i said.

The IRGC played a vital role during the Iraqi-imposed war and received compliments from the Leader of the world's deprived, the late Imam Khomeyni.

Commenting on the post-war era Reza'i said the IRGC is busy with extensive construction projects in the country. He said IRGC personnel, popularly known in Iran as 'Sepahis,' are constructing a major dam, Karkheh, in Khuzestan Province. For the last two years, the Sepahis have been building the dam which is 3 kilometers long, 150 meters high with a capacity of 7 billion cubic meters of water.

So far Rls. 600 billion have been spent on the project and it is estimated that Rls. 1 trillion will be spent before it is completed.

The IRGC personnel are also working on the 100-kilometer Tehran-Saveh highway to provide a natural gas supply network for the nation.

UN Envoy Says Organization Follows U.S. Policy

NC0303140694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The United Nations is an international organization formed to vindicate the rights of nations living under despotism and suppression. Now, over 50 years after it was established, this international organization's activities are contrary to the objectives that have been stated in the UN Charter. Our political correspondent interviewed our country's permanent representative at the United Nations, who is in Tehran now to discuss the United Nations' actions on world events during recent years.

[Kamal] Kharrazi, our country's permanent UN representative, said it is disturbing that the United Nations follows U.S. policies and stressed that the United Nations has become more like a pressure lever. Citing an example of how the United Nations follows U.S. policies, he referred to its stances on Iraq, Somalia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina and said: Since U.S. interests were involved in the Iraqi and Somali problems, the UN presence was strong. But, when it comes to Bosnia-Herzegovina and the passage of two years since the problem started, it has taken no serious step against the Serbs.

Elsewhere in his interview, our country's permanent UN representative discussed how the United Nations uses human rights in its approach to various countries and said:

[Begin recording] [Kharrazi] Human rights has been turned into a political instrument and everyone, that is, the representatives of the various countries at the United Nations, knows the human rights issue is a political instrument, not a real problem, and that the stance on this issue is very selective. One country is selected for political reasons so that pressure is exerted on it and the United Nations examines human rights in it, while the member countries know that, say, the Iranian human rights situation cannot be compared with that in many countries nearby. They know this. But in their political transactions and under the pressure and influence of these countries, they do not vote in our favor. And this is because the approach to human rights in general is a political one.

Basically speaking, we should note one point: The United Nations is not a house of justice where everything is based on justice. The United Nations, as I said, is a political club in which the political interests of countries play a determining role. In countries' political transactions among themselves they may vote for something. They may not necessarily believe in the vote they cast, but they justify their vote on the basis of their own political interests. [end recording]

In this interview, Kharrazi also referred to the UN Security Council's procrastination over dealing with the recent crime by the Zionists at al-Khalil and pointed out: Such approaches have led the Third World members of the United Nations to demand that the Security Council hold open sessions and to the countries of the south forming a committee to examine the Security Council's actions.

Deputy Foreign Minister Receives Afghan Envoy

LD0203225194 Tehran IRNA in English 2152 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March, 2, IRNA—Dr. Abdolrahman, personal envoy of the Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, here Wednesday discussed the recent developments in Afghanistan.

Abdolrahman praised Iran's humanitarian efforts to put an end to Afghan clashes and hoped for cessation of hostilities between the two sides.

Abdolrahman welcomed the assistance of the Iranian officials to Afghanistan in order to tackle its problems and said, "we trust in good intention of the Iranian officials".

Borujerdi referred to Iran's intense efforts to put an end to the Afghan clashes and reiterated that the Afghan war is in no one's benefit.

The Iranian official warned Afghan rival factions of the folly of destroying Afghan potentials and called on them not let the country to go on the brink of destruction. He also hoped for a speedy stop for Afghan war.